

United Nations

A/70/L.52



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
7 June 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session

Agenda item 11

**Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on
HIV/AIDS and the political declarations on HIV/AIDS**

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

**Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast-Track to
Accelerate the Fight against HIV and to End the AIDS Epidemic
by 2030**

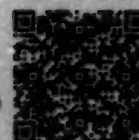
The General Assembly,

*Adopts the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS annexed to the present
resolution.*

16-09119 (E) 070616



Please recycle A universal recycling symbol.



Annex

Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast-Track to Accelerate the Fight against HIV and to End the AIDS Epidemic by 2030

1: We, Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments assembled at the United Nations from 8 to 10 June 2016, reaffirm our commitment to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as our legacy to present and future generations, to accelerate and scale up the fight against HIV and end AIDS to reach this target, and to seize the new opportunities provided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to accelerate action and to recast our approach to AIDS given the potential of the Sustainable Development Goals to accelerate joined-up and sustainable efforts to lead to the end of the AIDS epidemic, and we pledge to intensify efforts towards the goal of comprehensive prevention, treatment, care and support programmes that will help to significantly reduce new infections, increase life expectancy and quality of life, the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and the dignity of all people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV and AIDS and their families;

2: Reaffirm the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 and 2011 Political Declarations on HIV and AIDS, and the urgent need to scale up significantly our efforts towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support;

3: Reaffirm the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the resolve of Member States to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;

4: Reaffirm the sovereign rights of Member States, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and the need for all countries to implement the commitments and pledges in the present Declaration consistent with national laws, national development priorities and international human rights;

5: Reaffirm the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of its reviews; the outcome documents of the Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the key actions for its further implementation, and the outcomes of its reviews, and notes the outcome documents of the regional review conferences, stressing that the outcome documents of the regional review conferences provide region-specific guidance on population and development beyond 2014 for each region that adopted the particular outcome document, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the outcome document of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

6: Recall the 2015 ECOSOC resolution on the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) which reaffirmed the value of the lessons learned from the global AIDS response for the post-2015 development agenda, the Security Council

Resolution 1953 on the impact of the HIV epidemic in conflict and post-conflict situations, the 60th Commission on the Status of Women's Resolution on Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS adopted at the sessions on the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Human Rights Council Resolutions 17/14 on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in the context of development and access to medicines, 16/28 and 12/27, on the protection of human rights in the context of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), and 12/24, on access to medicine in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

7: Reaffirm that the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, including the right to development, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, should be mainstreamed into all HIV and AIDS policies and programmes, and also reaffirm the need to take measures to ensure that every person is entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights;

8: Underscore the importance of enhanced international cooperation to support the efforts of Member States to achieve health goals, including the target on ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, implement universal access to health-care services and address health challenges;

9: Recognize that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law. It is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. It is informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development;

10: Recognize that HIV and AIDS continues to constitute a global emergency, poses one of the most formidable challenges to the development, progress and stability of our respective societies and the world at large and requires an exceptional and comprehensive global response that takes into account the fact that the spread of HIV is often a cause and consequence of poverty and inequality, and that effective HIV and AIDS responses are critical to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — which recognizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and that the Sustainable Development Goals and targets be met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, so that no one will be left behind, thereby generating multiplier effects and a virtuous cycle of progress across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, bearing in mind the universal, integrated and indivisible nature of the new agenda;

11: Call for urgent action over the next five years to ensure that no one is left behind in the AIDS response, that the returns on the unprecedented gains and investments made over the past decades are fully realized, and that efforts are intensified, including through global solidarity, shared responsibility and political leadership, particularly given the rising population of people under the age of 25 in many high-

burden countries, to avoid the risk of a rebound of the epidemic in some parts of the world and to tackle the growing rates of antimicrobial resistance which would result in increased human and economic loss, and express grave concern about the cost of inaction, in the face of a looming crisis in access to and availability of treatment and inadequate progress and resources in comprehensive prevention, treatment, care and support;

12: Reiterate that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development, and that sustainable development can be achieved only in the absence of a high prevalence of debilitating communicable and non-communicable diseases, including emerging and re-emerging diseases;

13: Recognize that poverty and poor health are inextricably linked, that poverty can increase the risk of progression from HIV to AIDS due to a lack of access to comprehensive treatment-related services and adequate nutrition and care services, and to the inability to meet costs related to treatment services, including transportation;

14: Emphasize the continued importance, particularly given the 2015 World Health Organization Guidelines recommending that antiretroviral therapy be initiated for everyone living with HIV at any CD4 cell count, of a more integrated and systemic approach to addressing people's access to quality, people-centred health-care services in a more holistic manner, in the context of promoting the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and well-being, universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, universal health coverage, social protection for people in vulnerable situations, local, national and international health and social protection systems strengthening, including community systems, integrated responses to address non-communicable diseases and HIV and AIDS, and preparedness to tackle emerging disease outbreaks, such as Ebola, Zika and those yet to be identified, and other health threats;

15: Emphasize that to guarantee the sustainability of HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support services, information and education, which are mutually reinforcing, these should be integrated with national health systems and services to address coinfections and co-morbidities, in particular tuberculosis, substance use and mental disorders, as well as sexual and reproductive health-care services, including prevention, screening and treatment for viral hepatitis and cervical cancer, as well as other sexually transmitted infections, including human papillomavirus, and services to respond to sexual and gender-based violence while noting the particular vulnerability of women and girls to these coinfections and co-morbidities;

16: Recognize that addressing the holistic needs and rights of people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV, throughout their life course, will require close collaboration with efforts to end poverty and hunger everywhere, improve food and nutrition security and access to free, non-discriminatory primary and secondary education, promote healthy lives and well-being, provide access to HIV-sensitive social protection for all, including for children, reduce inequalities within and among countries, achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, provide for decent work and economic empowerment, and promote healthy cities, stable housing and just and inclusive societies for all;

17: Recognize that there are multiple and diverse epidemics and that in order to achieve the prevention and UNAIDS 90-90-90 treatment targets by 2020 and to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 that AIDS responses need to achieve greater efficiency and focus on evidence, the geographic locations, populations at higher risk of infection, service delivery models, innovations and programmes that will deliver the greatest impact, and in this regard, note the need for a coherent UN response, to assist countries to tailor effective responses, taking into account national context, including in humanitarian emergencies in conflict and post-conflict situations;

18: Reiterate with profound concern that Africa, in particular sub-Saharan Africa, remains the worst-affected region and that urgent and exceptional action is required at all levels to curb the devastating effects of this epidemic, particularly on women and adolescent girls, and recognize the renewed commitment of African Governments and regional institutions to scale up their own HIV and AIDS responses;

19: Express deep concern that HIV and AIDS affect every region of the world and that the Caribbean continues to have the highest prevalence outside sub-Saharan Africa, while the number of new HIV infections is increasing in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and note that 90% of people newly infected with HIV live in just 35 countries;

20: Welcome and encourage regional efforts to set ambitious targets and design and implement strategies on HIV and AIDS, and take note of the Arab AIDS Strategy (2014-2020), the African Union Roadmap on AIDS, TB and malaria (2012-2015, extended to 2020), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS (2013-2017), the ASEAN Declaration of Commitment: Getting to zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, zero AIDS-related deaths, the Caribbean Regional Strategic Framework on HIV and AIDS 2014-2018, the Agreement on cooperation of the CIS countries in addressing HIV infection, the EU Action Plan on HIV/AIDS in the EU and neighbouring countries: 2014-2016, Pacific Sexual Health & Well-Being Shared Agenda 2015-2019 and other relevant strategies;

21: Emphasize that the meaningful involvement of people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV and populations at higher risk of HIV facilitates the achievement of more effective AIDS responses, and that people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV should enjoy equally all human rights and enjoy equal participation in civil, political, social, economic and cultural life, without prejudice, stigma, or discrimination of any kind;

22: Commend subregional, regional and global financing institutions, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, for the vital role they play in mobilizing funding for country and regional AIDS responses including for civil society and in improving the predictability of financing over the long term, including bilateral investments, including from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and welcome donors' support, while noting that it falls short of the amounts needed to further accelerate progress towards front loading investments to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030;

23: Commend the work of the International Innovative Health Tools and Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID, based on innovative sources of financing and focusing on accessibility, quality and price reductions of antiretroviral drugs and welcome the

broadening of the scope of work of the Medicines Patent Pool, hosted by UNITAID, to promote voluntary partnerships to address Hepatitis C and tuberculosis, reflecting the importance of integrating the AIDS response into the broader global health agenda;

24: Take note of the Secretary-General's new Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, which continues to galvanize global efforts to significantly reduce the number of maternal, adolescent, newborn and under-five child deaths, as a matter of urgent concern;

25: Note with appreciation the efforts of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in supporting national parliaments to unlock political and legislative obstacles to ensure an enabling legal environment supportive of effective national responses to HIV and AIDS;

26: Take note of the UN Secretary-General's Report "On the Fast-Track to End the AIDS Epidemic" and of the UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy, including its goals and targets, as well as the WHO 2016-2021 HIV Health Sector Strategy;

27: Take note with appreciation of the HIV-relevant strategies of the Co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and commend the Secretariat and the Co-sponsors for their contribution on AIDS policy, strategic information and coordination and for the support they provide to countries through the Joint Programme;

28: Note the recommendations made by the Global Commission on HIV and the Law, co-convened by the United Nations Development Programme and UNAIDS, and the UNAIDS-Lancet Commission "Defeating AIDS Advancing Global Health" in advancing progress towards ending the AIDS epidemic;

29: Recognize the role that community organizations play, including those led by and run by people living with HIV, in supporting and sustaining national and local HIV and AIDS responses, reaching all people living with HIV, delivering prevention, treatment, care and support services and strengthening health systems, in particular the primary healthcare approach;

30: Welcome the leadership and commitment shown in every aspect of the HIV and AIDS response by Governments, relevant United Nations agencies, regional and subregional organizations as well as people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV, political and community leaders, parliamentarians, communities, families, faith-based organizations, scientists, health professionals, donors, the philanthropic community, the workforce, the private sector, the media and civil society, including women's and community-based organizations, feminist groups, youth-led organizations, national human rights institutions and human rights defenders and recognize their contribution to the achievement of MDG 6 on AIDS and implementing the commitments set forth in the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS, and call upon stakeholders, as appropriate, to support Member States in ensuring that country-driven, credible, costed, evidence-based, inclusive, sustainable, gender-responsive and comprehensive national HIV and AIDS strategic plans are funded and implemented as soon as possible with transparency, accountability and effectiveness;

2011-2016: Reflecting on unprecedented achievements and acknowledging those left behind

31: Recognize that the AIDS response has been transformative, demonstrating outstanding global solidarity and shared responsibility, advancing innovative cross-sectoral and people-centred approaches to global health and fostering unprecedented levels of comprehensive research and development;

32: Welcome the achievement of the HIV and AIDS targets of Millennium Development Goal 6 and recognize that, while significant progress was made on all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), urgent efforts are needed to complete the unfinished business of the MDGs and the 2011 Political Declaration as we implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030;

33: Note with deep concern that the HIV epidemic remains a paramount health, development, human rights and social challenge inflicting immense suffering on countries, communities and families throughout the world, that since the beginning of the epidemic there have been an estimated 76 million HIV infections and that 34 million people have died from AIDS, that AIDS is the leading cause of death among women and adolescent girls of reproductive age (age 15-49) globally, and that around 14 million children have been orphaned due to AIDS, and that 6,000 new HIV infections occur every day, mostly among people in developing countries, and note with alarm that, among the 36.9 million people living with HIV, more than 19 million people do not know their status;

34: Welcome the significant achievement in extending access to antiretroviral treatment to over 15 million people living with HIV by 2015, but express grave concern that despite the recommended expansion of antiretroviral treatment eligibility to all persons living with HIV, more than half of all people living with HIV do not know their status, 22 million people living with HIV remain without antiretroviral treatment, and a substantial proportion of people on antiretroviral therapy face social and structural barriers to good health, including poor quality care, economic constraints, stigma and discrimination, harmful practices and beliefs, inefficient service delivery models, poor nutrition and lack of food, medication side effects and misuse, and lack of comprehensive social protection, care and support and as a result do not start treatment in a timely fashion, struggle to adhere to treatment and fail to achieve viral suppression, resulting in a growing risk of emergence of drug-resistant strains, which poses a threat to the expansion of effective HIV treatment and prevention;

35: Note with deep concern the unacceptably low rates of testing and treatment coverage among children in developing countries, which are a result of similar social and structural barriers as the adult population faces, as well as age-specific barriers, including low rates of early infant diagnosis, inadequate case-finding of children outside of Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission settings, long delays in returning test results, poor linking of children to treatment, lack of adequate training for health-care workers in paediatric HIV testing, treatment and care, challenges with long-term adherence, the limited number and inadequate availability of efficacious antiretroviral child-friendly formulations, in certain countries and regions, stigma and discrimination, and lack of adequate social protection for children and caregivers;

36: Acknowledge the progress made since the launch of the Global Plan towards the elimination of new HIV infections among children and keeping their mothers alive, including that an estimated 85 countries are within reach of elimination of mother-to-child transmission, but note that continued efforts are greatly needed;

37: Reaffirm that access to safe, effective and affordable medicines and commodities for all, without discrimination, in the context of epidemics such as HIV and AIDS is fundamental to the full realization of the right of everyone to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, yet note with grave concern the high number of people without access to medicine and that the sustainability of providing lifelong safe, effective and affordable HIV treatment continues to be threatened by factors such as poverty and migration, lack of access to services and insufficient and unpredictable funding, especially for those left behind and underscore that access to medicines would save millions of lives;

38: Welcome the reduction in the number of deaths among people living with HIV in some countries, in particular, the reduction in the number of tuberculosis-related deaths among people living with HIV, which have fallen by 32% since 2004, yet note with grave concern that, among people living with HIV, tuberculosis remains the leading cause of death and viral hepatitis is a significant cause of ill-health and mortality, and that congenital syphilis continues to affect large numbers of pregnant women at risk of HIV and their infant;

39: Express grave concern that young people between the ages of 15 and 24 years account for more than one third of all new HIV infections among adults, with 2,000 young people becoming infected with HIV each day, that AIDS-related deaths are increasing among adolescents making AIDS the second leading cause of death in adolescents globally, and note that many young people have limited access to good quality education, nutritious food, decent employment and recreational facilities, as well as limited access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and programmes that provide the commodities, skills, knowledge and capability they need to protect themselves from HIV, that only 36 per cent of young men and 28 per cent of young women (15-24) possess accurate knowledge of HIV, and that laws and policies in some instances exclude young people from accessing sexual and reproductive health-care and HIV-related services, such as voluntary and confidential HIV testing, counselling, information and education, while also recognizing the importance of reducing risk-taking behaviour and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, including correct and consistent use of condoms;

40: Recognize the need to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of children in child-headed households in particular those headed by girls, which may result from the death of parents and legal guardians, and other economic, social and political realities, and express deep concern that the impact of the AIDS epidemic, including illness and mortality, the erosion of the extended family, the exacerbation of poverty, unemployment and underemployment and migration, as well as urbanization, has contributed to the increase in the number of child-headed households;

41: Remain deeply concerned that, globally, women and girls are still the most affected by the epidemic and that they bear a disproportionate share of the caregiving burden, note that progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls has been unacceptably slow and that the ability of women and girls to protect themselves from HIV continues to be compromised by

physiological factors, gender inequalities, including unequal power relations in society between women and men, boys and girls, unequal legal, economic and social status, insufficient access to health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health, as well as all forms of discrimination and violence in the public and private spheres, including trafficking in persons, sexual violence, exploitation and harmful practices;

42: Note with alarm the slow progress in reducing new infections and limited scale of combination prevention programmes, emphasizing that each country should define the specific populations that are key to its epidemic and response based on the local epidemiological context, and note with grave concern that women and adolescent girls, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa are more than twice as likely to become HIV positive than boys of the same age, and noting also that many national HIV-prevention, testing and treatment programmes provide insufficient access to services for women and adolescent girls, migrants, and key populations that epidemiological evidence shows are globally at higher risk of HIV, specifically people who inject drugs, who are 24 times more likely to acquire HIV than adults in the general population, sex workers, who are 10 times more likely to acquire HIV, men who have sex with men, who are 24 times more likely to acquire HIV, transgender people, who are 49 times more likely to be living with HIV, and prisoners, who are five times more likely to be living with HIV than adults in the general population;

43: Note that some countries and regions have made significant progress in expanding health-related risk and harm reduction programmes, in accordance with national legislation, as well as antiretroviral therapy and other relevant interventions that prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use, yet note the lack of global progress made in reducing transmission of HIV among people who use drugs, particularly those who inject drugs, and call attention to the insufficient coverage of such programmes and substance use treatment programmes that improve adherence to HIV drug treatment services, as appropriate in the context of national programmes, the marginalization and discrimination against people who use drugs through the application of restrictive laws, particularly those who inject drugs which hamper access to HIV-related services, and in that regard, consider ensuring access to such interventions including in treatment and outreach services, prisons and other custodial settings, and promoting in that regard the use, as appropriate, of the WHO, UNODC and UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users, and note with concern that gender-based and age-based stigma and discrimination often act as additional barriers for women and for young people who use drugs, particularly those who inject drugs, to access services;

44: Express grave concern that despite a general decline in discriminatory attitudes and policies towards people living with, presumed to be living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV, including those co-infected by TB, particularly in high TB/HIV burdened countries, discrimination continues to be reported, and that restrictive legal and policy frameworks, including related to HIV transmission, continue to discourage and prevent people from accessing prevention, treatment, care and support services;

45: Note with grave concern that, despite the recognition of the need to promote, protect and fulfil the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities including as set forth in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and despite the increased vulnerability to HIV infection faced by women and girls living with disabilities resulting from, inter alia, legal and economic inequalities, sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination and violations of their human rights, the formulation of the global AIDS response remains inadequately targeted and accessible to persons with disabilities;

46: Remain concerned that discriminatory laws and policies that restrict movement of people living with HIV may result in substantial harm and denial of HIV services, while acknowledging the steps taken by some countries in repealing entry, stay and residence restrictions based on HIV status, and that many corporate leaders promoted the business case for non-discrimination;

47: Note with grave concern that the holistic needs and human rights of people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV, and young people, remain insufficiently addressed because of inadequate integration of health services, including sexual and reproductive health-care and HIV services, including for people who have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, including post-exposure prophylaxis, legal services and social protection;

48: Welcome the important progress achieved in research for new biomedical tools for prevention, notably regarding Treatment as Prevention, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and ARV-based microbicides and voluntary medical male circumcision, but also recognize that research and development must be accelerated, including for long-acting formulations of PrEP, preventive and therapeutic HIV vaccines, and curative interventions;

49: Recognize that each country faces specific challenges to achieve sustainable development, and we underscore the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing the middle-income countries, and note that countries in situations of conflict also need special attention;

50: Acknowledge the significant mobilization of resources globally that reached an estimated US\$ 19.2 billion for HIV programmes in low- and middle-income countries in 2014,¹ and acknowledge the important role played by complementary innovative sources of financing;

51: Welcome the near tripling of domestic HIV investment between 2006 and 2014, with domestic sources accounting for 57% of all investments in 2014, and note the role that the African Union Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, TB and Malaria Response in Africa has played in this regard;

52: Recognizing that there are still gaps in financing for HIV/AIDS and the need to further encourage technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, improve access to medicines in developing countries and scale up capacity building and research and development;

¹ Report of the Secretary-General "On the Fast-Track to End the AIDS epidemic" (A/70/811) - Table 1 (page 17).

53: Note that many countries have the ability to invest much more than they currently do; among developed countries, only four invest a share of the total international resources available for AIDS that exceeds their country's proportion of world gross domestic product, and that both developed and developing countries should work towards significantly increasing funding, including domestic funding, for the HIV/AIDS response;

54: Recognize that if we do not Fast-Track the response across the prevention and treatment continuum in the next five years, by increasing and front-loading investments and massively scaling up coverage of HIV services, so as to reduce the rate of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths, the epidemic may rebound in some countries and we may not reach the ambitious, time-bound targets and commitments hereby set, including the UNAIDS 90-90-90 treatment target, by 2020 and the target of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030;

2016-2021: Global leadership: uniting to Fast-Track the HIV and AIDS response

55: Commit to seize this turning point in the HIV epidemic and, through decisive, inclusive and accountable leadership, to revitalize and intensify the comprehensive global HIV and AIDS response by recommitting to the commitments made in the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 and 2011 Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS and by fully implementing the commitments, goals and targets contained in the present Declaration;

56: Commit to targets for 2020 to work towards reducing the global numbers of people newly infected with HIV to fewer than 500,000 per annum and people dying from AIDS-related causes to fewer than 500,000 per annum, as well as to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination;

57: Commit to differentiate AIDS responses, based on country ownership and leadership, local priorities, drivers, vulnerabilities, aggravating factors, the populations that are affected and strategic information and evidence, and to set ambitious quantitative targets, where appropriate depending on epidemiological and social context, tailored to national circumstances in support of these goals;

58: Recognize that achieving the Fast-Track targets can support global efforts to eradicate all forms of poverty and inequality as well as to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, which are universal, integrated and indivisible, and in this regard we should front-load and diversify resources to Fast-Track the AIDS response and make progress on five strategic HIV-related areas, recognizing also that investing in efforts to meet a wide range of SDG targets will support efforts to end the AIDS epidemic;

Front-loading and diversifying resources are critical to Fast-Track the AIDS response

59 (a): Commit to increasing and front-loading investments to achieve the fast-track targets by 2020 as an essential milestone towards the target of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 and positively contributing to a wide range of development outcomes;

59 (b): Commit to increasing and fully funding the AIDS response from all sources, including from innovative financing, and reaching overall financial investments in developing countries of at least USD 26 billion/year by 2020, as estimated by

UNAIDS, with continued increase from the current levels of domestic public and private sources, according to each country's capacity, supplemented by public and private international assistance and strengthened global solidarity, and urge all stakeholders to contribute to a successful 5th and subsequent replenishments of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;

59 (c): Call upon all relevant stakeholders to close the global HIV and AIDS resource gap between the resources available today and the resources needed to reach the Fast track targets by 2020;

59 (d): Re-affirm our strong commitment to the full and timely implementation of the concrete policies and actions of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in order to close the global HIV and AIDS resource gap and to fully fund the HIV/AIDS response with a target of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda relates to domestic public resources, domestic and international private business and finance, international development cooperation, international trade as an engine for development, debt and debt sustainability, addressing systemic issues and science, technology, innovation and capacity-building, and data, monitoring and follow-up;

59 (e): Acknowledge that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, are central to our common pursuit of sustainable development, including achieving the sustainable development goals, and remain committed to further strengthening the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources;

59 (f): Further acknowledge that private business activity, investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation and that private investment capital flows, particularly foreign direct investment, along with a stable international financial system, are vital complements to national development efforts;

59 (g): Recognize that international public finance plays an important role in complementing efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources. Scaled up and more effective international support, including both concessional and non-concessional financing, is required;

59 (h): Reiterate that the fulfilment of all ODA commitments remains crucial. ODA providers re-affirm their respective ODA commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries. We are encouraged by those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitment to 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries. We urge all others to step up efforts to increase their ODA and to make additional concrete efforts towards their ODA targets. We welcome then decision by the European Union which reaffirms its collective commitment to achieve the 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI target within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and undertakes to meet collectively the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries in the short term, and to reach 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We encourage ODA providers to

consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries;

59 (i): Recognize that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement, not a substitute, to North-South cooperation. We recognize its increased importance, different history and particularities and stress that South-South cooperation should be seen as an expression of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, based on their shared experiences and objectives. It should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit;

59 (j): Welcome the increased contributions of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development. We encourage developing countries to voluntarily step up their efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation and to further improve its development effectiveness in accordance with the provisions of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. We also commit to strengthening triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation;

59 (k): Acknowledge that debt sustainability challenges facing many least developed countries and small island developing States require urgent solutions, and the importance of ensuring debt sustainability to the smooth transition of countries that have graduated from least developed country status. We also recognize the need to assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief, debt restructuring and sound debt management, as appropriate, and will continue to support the remaining HIPC-eligible countries that are working to complete the HIPC process;

59 (l): Concerned by the impact that Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) are having on draining resources away from the countries affected by HIV/AIDS. IFFs have an adverse impact on domestic resource mobilization and on the sustainability of public finances. The activities that underlie IFFs, such as corruption, embezzlement, fraud, tax evasion, safe havens that create incentives for transfer abroad of stolen assets, money laundering and illegal exploitation of natural resources are also detrimental to development. We emphasize the importance of working together including through increased international cooperation to stem corruption and identify, freeze and recover stolen assets, and return them to their countries of origin, in a manner consistent with UNCAC;

59 (m): Recognize that multi-stakeholder partnerships, such as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, have achieved results in the field of health. We encourage a better alignment of such initiatives, and encourage them to improve their contribution to health systems strengthening;

59 (n): Welcome the progress made since the Monterrey Consensus to develop and mobilize support for innovative sources and mechanisms of additional financing, in particular by the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development. We invite more countries to voluntarily join in implementing innovative mechanisms, instruments and modalities, which do not unduly burden developing countries. We encourage consideration of how existing mechanisms, such as GAVI's International

Finance Facility for Immunisation, might be replicated to address broader development needs. We also encourage exploring additional innovative mechanisms based on models combining public and private resources such as vaccine bonds, to support strategies, financing plans and multilateral efforts as a means to accelerate the AIDS response;

59 (o): Note with grave concern that sustainability of providing lifelong HIV treatment continues to be threatened by factors such as poverty, lack of access to treatment and insufficient and unpredictable funding, especially for those left behind, that despite remarkable progress, if we accept the status quo unchanged, the epidemic will rebound in several developing countries, more people will acquire HIV and die from AIDS-related illness in 2030 than in 2015, treatment costs will rise, therefore that the international community should ensure that resource needs of USD 13 billion are mobilized for the Global Funds' fifth replenishment;

59 (p): Commit to mobilizing resource needs of US\$13 billion for the Global Fund's Fifth Replenishment. By leveraging advances in science and applying innovative solutions, the partnership is on track to reach 22 million lives saved since its establishment by the end of 2016. A fully funded Replenishment will save an additional 8 million lives by 2020, and deliver economic gains of up to US\$290 billion over the coming years;

Ensuring access to testing and treatment in the fight against HIV and AIDS

60 (a): Commit to 90-90-90 treatment targets,² and to ensuring that 30 million people living with HIV access treatment by 2020 with special emphasis on providing 1.6 million children (0-14 years of age) with antiretroviral therapy by 2018 and that children, adolescents and adults living with HIV know their status and are immediately offered and sustained on affordable and accessible quality treatment to ensure viral load suppression and underscore in this regard the urgency of closing the testing gap;

60 (b): Commit to using multiple strategies and modalities, including, when possible, voluntary, confidential, fully-informed and safe community-based testing, according to national context, to reaching the millions of people who do not know their status, including those living with HIV and to providing pre-test information, counselling, post-test referrals and follow-up to facilitate linkages to care, support and treatment services, including viral load monitoring and to addressing socioeconomic barriers to testing and treatment, including legal, regulatory barriers to community testing, and commit to expanding and promoting voluntary and confidential HIV testing and counselling, including provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling and to intensifying national testing promotion campaigns for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections;

60 (c): Commit to taking all appropriate steps to eliminate new HIV infections among children and ensure that their mothers' health and well-being are sustained through immediate and lifelong treatment, including for pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV through early infant diagnosis, dual elimination with congenital syphilis, and treatment of their male partners, adopting innovative

² 90% of people (children, adolescents and adults) living with HIV know their status, 90% of people living with HIV who know their status are receiving treatment and 90% of people on treatment have suppressed viral loads.

systems that track and provide comprehensive services to mother-infant pairs through the continuum of care, expanding case-finding of children in all health-care entry points, improving linkage to treatment, increasing and improving adherence support, developing models of care for children differentiated by age groups, eliminating preventable maternal mortality and engaging male partners in prevention and treatment services, and taking steps towards achieving WHO certification of elimination of mother-to-child HIV transmission;

60 (d): Commit to build people-centred systems for health by strengthening health and social systems, including for populations that epidemiological evidence shows are at higher risk of infection and by expanding community-led service delivery to cover at least 30% of all service delivery by 2030, and through investment in human resources for health, as well as in the necessary equipment, tools and medicines, and promoting that such policies are based on a non-discriminatory that respects, promotes and protects human rights, and by building the capacity of civil society organizations to deliver HIV prevention, treatment services;

60 (e): Work towards achieving universal health coverage that comprises equitable and universal access to quality health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health, and social protection, and includes financial risk protection, and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all, including the development of new service delivery models to improve efficiency, lower costs, and ensure delivery of more integrated services for HIV, TB, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections, non-communicable diseases, including cervical cancer, drug dependence, food and nutrition support, maternal, child and adolescent health, men's health, mental health and sexual and reproductive health, and to address gender-based and sexual violence, in order to equip fragile communities to cope with these issues as well as future disease outbreaks;

60 (f): Commit to take immediate action at the national and global levels, as appropriate, to integrate food and nutritional support into programmes directed to people affected by HIV in order to ensure access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to enable people to meet their nutritional needs, for an active and healthy life as part of a comprehensive response to HIV and AIDS;

60 (g): Commit to work towards the target of reducing TB-related deaths among people living with HIV by 75% by 2020, as outlined in the WHO End TB Strategy as well as commit to funding and implementing to achieve targets set in the Stop TB Partnership — Global Plan to End TB 2016-2020, to achieve the 90-90-90 targets to reach 90% of all people who need TB treatment including 90% of populations at high risk, and achieve at least 90% treatment success, including through expanding efforts to combat tuberculosis, including drug resistant tuberculosis, by improving prevention, screening, diagnosis and affordable treatment and access to antiretroviral therapy, and to 100% coverage of intensified TB case finding among all persons living with HIV, with particular attention to underserved and especially at risk populations, including children, utilizing new tools, including rapid molecular tests through joint programming, patient-centred integration and co-location of HIV and TB services, ensuring that national protocols for HIV/TB coinfection are updated within two years to reflect the latest WHO recommendations;

60 (h): Commit to reduce the high rates of HIV and hepatitis B and C co-infection and ensure that by 2020, efforts are made to reduce by 30% new cases of chronic

viral hepatitis B and C infections, and have 5 million people receiving hepatitis B treatment and to have treated 3 million people with chronic hepatitis C infection, also taking into account the linkages to and lessons learnt from the AIDS response such as the promotion and protection of human rights, reduction of stigma and discrimination, community engagement, stronger integration of HIV and hepatitis B and C service delivery, efforts towards guaranteeing access to affordable medicines and effective prevention interventions particularly for vulnerable populations and populations that epidemiological evidence shows are at higher risk of infection;

60 (i): Commit to measures to ensure access to safe, affordable, and efficacious medicines, including generic medicines, diagnostics and related health technologies, utilizing all available tools to reduce the price of lifesaving drugs and diagnostics, and note the establishment of the High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines convened by the Secretary General;

60 (j): Recognize the critical importance of affordable medicines, including generics, in scaling up access to affordable HIV treatment, and further recognize that protection and enforcement measures for intellectual property rights should be compliant with the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of the right of Member States to protect public health and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all, and welcome the adoption by the TRIPS Council in November 2015 of the Decision on the Extension of the Transition Period under Article 66.1 of the TRIPS Agreement for Least-Developed Country Members for certain obligations with respect to pharmaceutical products;

60 (k): Note with concern that regulations, policies and practices, including those that limit legitimate trade in generic medicines, may seriously limit access to affordable HIV treatment and other pharmaceutical products in low- and middle-income countries, and recognize that improvements can be made, inter alia through national legislation, regulatory policy and supply chain management, noting that reductions in barriers to affordable products could be explored in order to expand access to safe, effective, affordable and good quality HIV prevention products, diagnostics, medicine, vaccines and treatment commodities for HIV, including for opportunistic infections and co-infections;

60 (l): Commit to urgently remove, where feasible, obstacles that limit the capacity of low- and middle-income countries to provide affordable and effective HIV prevention and treatment products, diagnostics, medicines and commodities and other pharmaceutical products, as well as treatment for opportunistic infections, co-morbidities and co-infections, and to reduce costs associated with lifelong chronic care, including by amending national laws and regulations, as deemed appropriate by respective Governments, so as to optimize:

(a) The use, to the full, of existing flexibilities under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights specifically geared to promoting access to and trade in medicines, and, while recognizing the importance of the intellectual property rights regime in contributing to a more effective AIDS response, ensure that intellectual property rights provisions in trade agreements do not undermine these existing flexibilities, as confirmed in the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, and call for early acceptance of the

amendment to article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization in its decision of 6 December 2005;

(b) Addressing barriers, regulations, policies and practices that prevent access to affordable HIV treatment by promoting generic competition in order to help to reduce costs associated with lifelong chronic care and by encouraging all States to apply measures and procedures for enforcing intellectual property rights in such a manner as to avoid creating barriers to the legitimate trade in medicines, and to provide for safeguards against the abuse of such measures and procedures;

(c) Encouraging the voluntary use, where appropriate, of new mechanisms such as partnerships, grants, prizes, tiered pricing, open-source sharing of patents and patent pools benefiting all developing countries, including through entities such as the Medicines Patent Pool, to help to reduce treatment costs and encourage development of new HIV treatment formulations, including HIV medicines and point-of-care diagnostics, in particular for children;

60 (m): Commit to establishing effective systems to monitor for, prevent and respond to the emergence of drug resistant strains of HIV in populations and antimicrobial resistance among people living with HIV;

60 (n): Commit to pursuing the continuity of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and to providing a package of care for people living with HIV, TB and/or malaria in humanitarian emergencies and conflict settings, as displaced people and people affected by humanitarian emergencies face multiple challenges, including heightened HIV vulnerability, risk of treatment interruption and limited access to quality health-care and nutritious food;

Pursuing transformative AIDS responses to contribute to Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls

61 (a): Recognize that unequal socioeconomic status of women compromises their ability to prevent HIV or mitigate the impact of AIDS and acknowledge the mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the eradication of poverty, reaffirm that the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, should be mainstreamed into all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty;

61 (b): Stress in that regard that the lack of protection and promotion of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, and insufficient access to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, aggravates the impact of the epidemic especially amongst women and girls, increasing their vulnerability and endangering the survival of present and future generations;

61 (c): Pledge to eliminate gender inequalities and gender-based abuse and violence, increase the capacity of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and services, including, inter alia, sexual and reproductive health, as well as full access to comprehensive information and education, ensure that women can exercise their right to have control over, and decide freely and responsibly on, matters related to

their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, in order to increase their ability to protect themselves from HIV infection, and take all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and to strengthen their economic independence, and, in this context, reiterate the importance of the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality;

61 (d): Commit to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, to respect, promote and protect their human rights, education and health, including their sexual and reproductive health, by investing in gender-responsive approaches and ensuring gender mainstreaming at all levels, supporting women's leadership in the AIDS response, engaging men and boys, recognizing that gender equality and positive gender norms promote effective responses to HIV;

61 (e): Commit to address social norms, including by addressing the pertinent drivers that place a disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work related to taking care of people living with HIV on women and girls;

61 (f): Commit to reduce the number of adolescent girls and young women, aged 15-24 years old, newly infected with HIV globally each year to below 100,000 by 2020;

61 (g): Commit to take urgent action, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa, to prevent and address the devastating effects of this epidemic on women and adolescent girls;

61 (h): Commit to end all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, such as gender-based, sexual, domestic and intimate partner violence, by i.a. eliminating sexual exploitation of women, girls and boys, trafficking in persons, femicide, abuse, rape in every and all circumstances, and other forms of sexual violence, discriminatory laws and harmful social norms that perpetuate the unequal status of women and girls, as well as harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization, in particular of women living with HIV, forced and coerced abortion and female genital mutilation, including in conflict, post-conflict and other humanitarian emergencies, as these can have serious and long-lasting impacts on the health and well-being of women and girls throughout the lifecycle and increase their vulnerability to HIV;

61 (i): Commit to adopting, reviewing and accelerating effective implementation of laws that criminalize violence against women and girls, as well as comprehensive, multidisciplinary and gender-responsive preventive, protective and prosecutorial measures and services to eliminate and prevent all forms of violence against all women and girls, in public and private spaces, as well as harmful practices;

61 (j): Address all health consequences, including the physical, mental and sexual and reproductive health consequences, of violence against women and girls by providing accessible health-care services that are responsive to trauma and include affordable, safe, effective and good quality medicines, first line support, treatment of injuries and psychosocial and mental health support, emergency contraception, safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV infection, diagnosis and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, training for medical professionals to effectively identify and treat women subjected to violence, as well as forensic examinations by appropriately trained professionals;

61 (k): Commit to develop and to strengthen, in all countries, national policies, norms and measures directly aimed at awareness, prevention and punishment of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, as well as to develop policies aimed at the prevention of sexual violence and comprehensive care for children and adolescents sexually abused;

61 (l): Commit to ensure universal access to quality, affordable and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health-care and HIV services, information, and commodities, including women-initiated prevention commodities, including female condoms, pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis, emergency contraceptives and other forms of modern contraceptives by choice, regardless of age or marital status, and ensure that services comply with human rights standards and that all forms of violence, discrimination and coercive practices in health-care settings are eliminated and prohibited;

61 (m): Commit to reducing the risk of HIV infection among adolescent girls and young women by providing them with quality information and education, mentoring, social protection, and social services, which evidence shows reduce their risk of HIV infection, by ensuring girls' access and transition to secondary and tertiary education and addressing barriers to retention, and by providing women with psychosocial support and vocational training to facilitate their transition from education to decent work;

61 (n): Commit to support and encourage UN entities, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to support the development and strengthening of capacities of national health systems and civil society networks in order to provide sustainable assistance to women living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV in conflict and post-conflict situations;

61 (o): Commit to ensuring that gender equality strategies also address the impact of harmful gender norms, including delayed health seeking behaviours, lower coverage of HIV testing and treatment, and higher HIV-related mortality among men, to ensure better health outcomes for men and to reduce HIV transmission to partners;

Ensuring access to high-quality HIV services, commodities and prevention, while expanding coverage, diversifying approaches and intensifying efforts to fight HIV and end the AIDS epidemic

62 (a): Recognize that the AIDS response can only be Fast-Trackd by protecting and promoting access appropriate, high-quality, evidence-based HIV information, education and services without stigma and discrimination with full respect for rights to privacy, confidentiality and informed consent and reaffirm that comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support of HIV must be the cornerstone of national, regional and international responses to the HIV epidemic;

62 (b): Commit to redouble non-discriminatory HIV-prevention efforts by taking all measures to implement comprehensive, evidence-based prevention approaches to reduce new HIV infections, including by conducting public awareness campaigns and targeted HIV education to raise public awareness;

62 (c): Commit to accelerate efforts to scale up scientifically accurate age-appropriate comprehensive education, relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, with information on sexual and

reproductive health and HIV prevention, gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem, informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers, in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection;

62 (d): Commit to saturate areas with high HIV incidence with a combination of tailored prevention interventions, including outreach via traditional and social media and peer-led mechanisms, male and female condom programming, voluntary medical male circumcision, and effective measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, including appropriate medication assisted therapy programmes, injecting equipment programmes, pre-exposure prophylaxis for people at high risk of acquiring HIV, antiretroviral therapy, and other relevant interventions that prevent the transmission of HIV with particular focus on young people, particularly young women and girls, and encourage the financial and technical support of international partners as appropriate;

62 (e): Promote the development of and access to tailored HIV comprehensive prevention services for all women and adolescent girls, migrants, and key populations;

62 (f): Encourage Member States with high HIV incidence to taking all appropriate steps to ensure that 90% of those at risk of HIV infection are reached by comprehensive prevention services, that 3 million persons at high risk access pre-exposure prophylaxis and an additional 25 million young men are voluntarily medically circumcised by 2020 in high HIV incidence areas in and ensure the availability of 20 billion condoms in low- and middle-income countries;

62 (g): Commit to ensure that financial resources for prevention are adequate and constitute no less than a quarter of AIDS spending globally on average, and are targeted to evidence-based prevention measures that reflect the specific nature of each country's epidemic by focusing on geographic locations, social networks and populations that are at higher risk of HIV infection according to the extent to which they account for new infections in each setting, in order to ensure that resources for HIV prevention are spent as cost-effectively as possible and to ensure that particular attention is paid to those populations at highest risk, depending on local circumstances;

62 (h): Commit to ensure that the needs and human rights of persons with disabilities are taken into account in the formulation of all responses to HIV and that HIV prevention, treatment, care and support programmes as well as sexual and reproductive health-care services and information are made accessible to persons with disabilities;

62 (i): Encourage Member States to strengthen, national social and child protection systems to ensure that by 2020, 75% of people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV, who are in need, benefit from HIV-sensitive social protection, including cash transfers and equal access to housing, and support programmes for children, in particular for orphans and street children, girls, and adolescents living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV, as well as their families and caregivers, including through

the provision of equal opportunities to support the development of children to their full potential especially through equal access to early child development services, trauma and psychosocial support and education, as they transition through adolescence, the creation of safe and non-discriminatory learning environments, supportive legal systems and protections, including civil registration systems;

62 (j): Commit to eliminate barriers, including stigma and discrimination in health-care settings, to ensure universal access to comprehensive HIV diagnostic, prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV, persons deprived of their liberty, indigenous people, children, adolescents, young people, women, and other vulnerable populations;

Promoting laws, policies and practices to enable access to services and end HIV-related stigma and discrimination;

63 (a): Reaffirm that the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all supports the global response to the AIDS epidemic, including in the areas of prevention, treatment, care and support, and recognize that addressing stigma and discrimination against all people living with, presumed to be living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV, is a critical element in combating the global HIV epidemic;

63 (b): Commit to strengthen measures at the international, regional, national, and local and community levels to prevent crimes and violence against, and victimization of, people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV and foster social development and inclusiveness, integrate such measures into overall law enforcement efforts and comprehensive HIV policies and programmes as key to reaching the global AIDS Fast-Track targets and the Sustainable Development Goals; review and reform, as needed, legislation that may create barriers or reinforce stigma and discrimination, such as, age of consent laws, laws related to HIV non-disclosure, exposure and transmission, policy provisions and guidelines that restrict access to services among adolescents, travel restrictions and mandatory testing, including of pregnant women, who should still be encouraged to take the HIV test, to remove adverse effects on the successful, effective and equitable delivery of HIV prevention, treatment care, and support programmes to people living with HIV;

63 (c): Commit to intensify national efforts to create enabling legal, social and policy frameworks in each national context in order to eliminate stigma, discrimination and violence related to HIV, including by linking service providers in health-care, workplace, educational and other settings, and promote access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and non-discriminatory access to education, health-care, employment and social services, provide legal protections for people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV, including in relation to inheritance rights and respect for privacy and confidentiality, and promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

63 (d): Underscore the need to mitigate the impact of the epidemic on workers, and their families, and their dependants, workplaces and economies, including by taking into account all relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization, as well as the guidance provided by the relevant International Labour Organization recommendations, including the Recommendation on HIV and AIDS and the World of Work, 2010 (No. 200), and call upon employers, trade and labour unions,

employees and volunteers to take measures to eliminate stigma and discrimination, protect, promote and respect human rights and facilitate access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;

63 (e): Commit to national AIDS strategies that empower people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV to know their rights and to access justice and legal services to prevent and challenge violations of human rights, including strategies and programmes aimed at sensitizing law enforcement officials, members of the legislature and judiciary, training health-care workers in non-discrimination, confidentiality and informed consent, supporting national human rights learning campaigns, as well as monitoring the impact of the legal environment on HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;

63 (f): Commit to promoting laws and policies that ensure the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for children, adolescents and young people, particularly those living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV, so as to eliminate the stigma and discrimination they face;

63 (g): Encourage Member States to address the vulnerabilities to HIV and the specific healthcare needs experienced by migrant and mobile populations, as well as refugees and crisis-affected populations, and to take steps to reduce stigma, discrimination and violence, as well as to review policies related to restrictions of entry based on HIV status with the view to eliminate such restrictions and the return of people on the basis of their HIV status, and to support their access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;

Engaging and supporting people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV as well as other relevant stakeholders in the AIDS response

64 (a): Call for increased and sustained investment in the advocacy and leadership role, involvement and empowerment of people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV, women children, bearing in mind roles and responsibilities of parents, young people, especially young women and girls, local leaders, community-based organizations, indigenous communities and civil society more generally as part of a broader effort to ensure at least 6% of all global AIDS resources are allocated for social enablers including advocacy, community and political mobilization, community monitoring, public communication, outreach programmes to increase access to rapid tests and diagnosis, as well as human rights programmes such as law and policy reform, and stigma and discrimination reduction;

64 (b): Commit to encouraging and supporting the active involvement and leadership of young people, particularly women, including those living with HIV, in the fight against the epidemic at the local, subregional, regional, national and global levels, and agree to support these new leaders to help develop specific measures to engage young people about HIV, including in communities, families, schools, tertiary institutions, recreation centres and workplaces;

64 (c): Support and encourage enhanced strategic engagement with the private sector to support countries with investments as well as, inter alia, service delivery, strengthening supply chains, workplace initiatives and social marketing of health commodities and in support of behavioural change, to Fast-Track the response;

64 (d): Strongly urge increased investments in comprehensive research and development to enable access to improved and affordable point-of-care diagnostics,

prevention commodities, including preventive and therapeutic vaccines, and female-initiated prevention commodities, more tolerable, efficacious and affordable health technologies and products, including simpler and more effective drug formulations for children, adolescents and adults, second- and third-line therapy, new drugs and diagnostics for tuberculosis, viral load monitoring tools, microbicides and a functional cure, while seeking to ensure that sustainable systems for vaccine procurement and equitable distribution are also developed, and in this context, encourage other forms of incentives for research and development such as the exploration of new incentive systems including those in which research and development costs are delinked from product prices;

64 (e): Recognize the important role played by the private sector in research and development of innovative medicines, encourage the use, where appropriate, of alternative financing mechanisms for research and development as a driver of innovation for new medicines and new uses for medicines and explore opportunities to de-link the cost of research and development from the price of health products;

64 (f): Commit to realize the full impact of innovation in research, science, and technology and to work towards ensuring that trade and other commercial policies support public health goals, under a human rights and development framework;

64 (g): Recognize that the changing context, epidemic and response demand expanded quality technical support to strengthen capacity and institutions aligned with principles of country ownership and leadership, aid effectiveness and value for money and that long-term sustainability of access to HIV-related products, including through local production of pharmaceutical products, requires promoting voluntary technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, including sharing of know-how and expertise to strengthen local manufacturing capacity;

64 (h): Commit to support technology transfer arrangements which increase the availability and affordability of medicines and related health technologies and in this regard, encourage the utilisation of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the SDGs, created as a component of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, to identify and examine technology needs and gaps;

64 (i): Support and encourage, through domestic and international funding and the provision of technical assistance, the substantial development of human capital, development of national and international research infrastructures, laboratory capacity and improved surveillance systems, and data collection, processing and dissemination, and training of basic and clinical researchers, social scientists and technicians, with a focus on those countries most affected by HIV and/or experiencing or at risk of, a rapid expansion of the epidemic;

Leveraging regional leadership and institutions is essential to more effective AIDS responses

65: Encourage all regions to work with regional and subregional organizations, people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV, relevant UN organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, towards the achievement of the following targets by 2020, as modelled in the Fast Track approach to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, and in this regard, call for strengthened global solidarity and shared responsibility to ensure sufficient funds are made available to support regions in this endeavour:

65 (a): Work towards reducing the number of new infections among young people and adults (aged 15 and older) by 75% in Asia and the Pacific to 88,000, in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to 44,000, in Eastern and Southern Africa to 210,000, in Latin America and the Caribbean to 40,000, in the Middle East and North Africa to 6,200, in Western and Central Africa to 67,000, Western and Central Europe and North America to 53,000;

65 (b): Work towards reducing the number of new infections in children and young adolescents (under 15) by 95% in Asia and the Pacific to 1,900, in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to fewer than 100, in Eastern and Southern Africa to 9,400, in Latin America and the Caribbean to fewer than 500, in the Middle East and North Africa to fewer than 200, in Western and Central Africa to 6,000, Western and Central Europe and North America to fewer than 200 among children;

65 (c): Work towards increasing to at least 81% of the number of young people and adults (aged 15 and older) on treatment in 2020, in Asia and the Pacific to 4.1 million, in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to 1.4 million, in Eastern and Southern Africa to 14.1 million, in Latin America and the Caribbean to 1.6 million, in the Middle East and North Africa to 210,000, in Western and Central Africa to 4.5 million, Western and Central Europe and North America to 2 million, ensuring equal access to treatment for women and men;

65 (d): Work towards ensuring that at least 81% of the number of children and young adolescents (under 15) are on treatment in 2020, in Asia and the Pacific reaching 95,000, in Eastern and Southern Africa reaching 690,000, in the Middle East and North Africa reaching 8,000, in Western and Central Africa reaching 340,000, in Eastern Europe and Central Asia reaching 7,600, in Latin America and the Caribbean reaching 17,000, and in Western and Central Europe and North America reaching 1,300 children, ensuring equal access to treatment for girls and boys;

66: Encourage and support the exchange among countries and regions of information, research, evidence, best practices and experiences for implementing the measures and commitments related to the global HIV and AIDS response, in particular those contained in the present Declaration, as well as subregional, regional and interregional cooperation and coordination, and leverage the unique leadership of these political and economic institutions;

67: Continue to encourage the Economic and Social Council to request the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and resources, to support periodic, inclusive reviews of national efforts and progress made in their respective regions to combat HIV and underline in this regard the valuable model provided by African Peer Review Mechanism of the African Union, and consider, as appropriate, regular regional peer-based reviews of AIDS responses that facilitate engagement of health and non-health ministries, city and local leaders and ensure the meaningful participation of civil society organizations, especially of people living with HIV, women's and youth groups, among others;

68: Taking into account the many challenges faced on the African Continent, urge continued support for the processes for the establishment of the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention, to support African countries in efforts to effectively prevent, detect and respond to emergencies, and build the needed capacity to protect communities across the continent;

69: Commit to strengthen regional, subregional, national and local capacity to develop, manufacture and deliver quality-assured affordable medicines, such as generics, diagnostics, reliable incidence measuring tools, biomedical prevention commodities, other commodities, including through an enabling legal, policy and regulatory environments, and encourage the development of regional markets, including through enhanced North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and emphasize the need to increase the self-reliance of drug supplies in all regions, including through increasing local production and manufacturing capacities of developing countries pooled procurement, accurate forecasting and timely prequalification to improve HIV prevention, treatment, care and support programmes, as well as programmes for tuberculosis, sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health-care and malaria;

Enhancing governance, monitoring and accountability will deliver results for and with people

70: Commit to effective evidence-based operational mutual accountability mechanisms, that are transparent and inclusive, with the active involvement of people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV, and other relevant civil society and private sector stakeholders, to support the implementation and monitoring of progress on multisectoral national Fast-Track plans to fulfil the commitments in the present Declaration;

71: Accelerate efforts to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data, including on incidence and prevalence, disaggregated by income, sex, mode of transmission, age (including for ages 10 to 14 and over the age of 49), race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, marital status, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts as well as the strengthening of national capacity for use and analysis of such data and for evaluation of efforts to improve population size estimates, resource allocation by population and location and service access and to fill critical data gaps, and inform effective policy development, with due consideration to the confidentiality principle and professional ethics and to enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, for this purpose and provide international cooperation, including through technical and financial support, to further strengthen the capacity of national statistical authorities and bureaux.

72: Request the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) to continue to support Member States within their respective mandate to address the social, economic, political and structural drivers, including through the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and human rights, of the AIDS epidemic, to achieve multiple development outcomes, including actions to eliminate poverty and inequalities, provide access to social protection and child protection, improve food security, stable housing and access to quality education and economic opportunity, achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and promote healthy cities and just and inclusive societies, and to further contribute to intersectoral efforts essential to reach the global health goals and ensure progress across the 2030 Agenda in all settings, including humanitarian, in order to fulfil the overarching goal to leave no one behind, with the full involvement of Member States and relevant stakeholders;

73: Call on the international community to utilize the AIDS machinery to tackle broader global health challenges and to ensure no one is left behind in sustainable development efforts;

74: Ensure the United Nations is fit to deliver results on the 2030 Agenda by reinforcing and expanding the unique multi-sector, multi-stakeholder development and rights-based approach of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) and, in this regard, reaffirm, as per ECOSOC resolution E/RES/2015/2, that it offers the United Nations system a useful example, to be considered, as appropriate, of enhanced strategic coherence, coordination, results-based focus, inclusive governance and country-level impact, based on national contexts and priorities;

75: Encourage and support the exchange among countries and regions of information, research, evidence and experiences for implementing the measures and commitments related to the global HIV and AIDS response, in particular those contained in the present Declaration, facilitate intensified North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as subregional, regional and interregional cooperation and coordination, and in this regard continue to encourage the Economic and Social Council to request the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and resources, to support periodic, inclusive reviews of national efforts and progress made in their respective regions to combat HIV;

Follow-up: accelerating progress

76: Request the Secretary-General, with support from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, to provide to the General Assembly, within its annual reviews, an annual report on progress achieved in realizing the commitments made in the present Declaration and request continued support from UNAIDS to assist countries to report annually on the AIDS response;

77: Request the Secretary-General, with the support of the Joint Programme, to contribute to the reviews of progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development taking place at the High Level Political Forum so as to ensure that follow-up and review processes assess progress on the AIDS response;

78: Request the Secretary-General to strengthen cooperation among relevant UN system agencies, under the leadership of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, in order to strengthen the Fast-Track AIDS response, and request the Joint Programme to support Member States, including through the strengthening of accountability mechanisms and facilitating the participation of all stakeholders, to deliver on the outcomes of this declaration, in line with their respective mandates, abilities and resources;

79: Decide to convene a High-Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS to review progress: on the Commitments made in the present Declaration towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, and how the response, in its social, economic and political dimensions, continues to contribute optimally to progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the global health goal, and decide to reach an agreement on the date for convening the next High-Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS no later than the 75th session of the General Assembly.



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
9 June 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda item 20
Sustainable development

Afghanistan, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Georgia, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Myanmar, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Samoa, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

International Day of the Tropics*The General Assembly,*

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for their proclamation, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, which state that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements necessary for its organization and financing have been made,

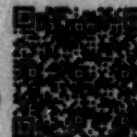
Recognizing that tropical nations have made significant progress, but face a variety of challenges that demand focused attention across a range of development indicators and data in order to achieve sustainable development,¹

Noting that the tropics, as a region, account for 40 per cent of the world's total surface area and are host to approximately 80 per cent of the world's biodiversity and much of its language and cultural diversity,

Recognizing the specific challenges faced by tropical areas, the far-reaching implications of the issues affecting the world's tropical zone and the need, at all levels, to raise awareness and to underline the important role that countries in the tropics will play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

1. *Decides* to designate 29 June as the International Day of the Tropics;

¹ In this regard, the Government of Australia draws attention to the contribution made by the State of the Tropics project.



2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to observe the International Day of the Tropics in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national priorities, in order to raise awareness of the tropics, the specific challenges that they face and the emerging opportunities that they present;

3. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, for appropriate observance.



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
14 June 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda item 20
Sustainable development

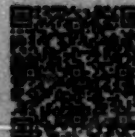
Afghanistan, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Georgia, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Myanmar, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Samoa, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

International Day of the Tropics

Addendum

Add the following countries to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution:

Argentina, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Cyprus, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Maldives, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Panama, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



**General Assembly**

Distr.: Limited
22 June 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session

Agenda items 15 and 116

**Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up
to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and
summits in the economic, social and related fields**

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

**High-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of
refugees and migrants**

The General Assembly,

*Recalling its decision 70/539 of 22 December 2015, in which it decided to
convene, on 19 September 2016, a high-level meeting of the plenary of the General
Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants,*

1. Decides that:

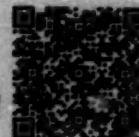
(a) The high-level meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and
migrants shall consist of a plenary meeting and six interactive multi-stakeholder
round tables and that the organizational arrangements will be as follows:

(i) The opening plenary meeting will be held in the General Assembly Hall
from 8.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.;

(ii) Following the opening meeting, the plenary meeting will be held
simultaneously in the Economic and Social Council Chamber and the
Trusteeship Council Chamber from 9.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.;

(iii) The sequence envisaged for the round tables (although this could be
subject to modification, in consultation with Member States) is that round
tables 1, 2 and 3 will be held in parallel, each running from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.,
and round tables 4, 5 and 6 will be held in parallel, each running from 3 p.m.
to 6 p.m.;

(iv) The closing plenary meeting will be held in the General Assembly Hall
from 7.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.;



(b) The high-level meeting will be co-chaired by the President of the General Assembly and the President of the General Assembly at its seventieth session; the opening plenary meeting will feature statements of up to three minutes, each involving the President of the Assembly, the President of the Assembly at its seventieth session, the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Director General of the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration, the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on behalf of the Global Migration Group, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the President of the World Bank Group, a member of a migrant community, a member of a refugee community, a representative of civil society and a representative of the private sector;

(c) The outcome document for the high-level meeting will be adopted during the opening plenary meeting;

(d) The plenary meeting will hear statements by Member States, observer States and intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly, the list of speakers to be established in accordance with the rules of procedure and established practices of the Assembly and the time limit for these statements to be four minutes;

(e) The themes for each of the six round tables will be as follows:

(i) Round table 1: Addressing the root causes of large movements of refugees;

(ii) Round table 2: Addressing drivers of migration, particularly large movements, and highlighting the positive contributions of migrants;

(iii) Round table 3: International action and cooperation on refugees and migrants and issues related to displacement: the way ahead;

(iv) Round table 4: Global compact for responsibility-sharing for refugees; respect for international law;

(v) Round table 5: Global compact for safe, regular and orderly migration: towards realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving full respect for the human rights of migrants;

(vi) Round table 6: Addressing vulnerabilities of refugees and migrants on their journeys from their countries of origin to their countries of arrival;

(f) Each interactive multi-stakeholder round table will normally be presided over by two co-chairs, to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with regional groups and with due regard for geographical balance;

(g) The time limit for statements by participants in the interactive multi-stakeholder round tables will be five minutes;

(h) Each interactive multi-stakeholder round table will reserve at least two seats for non-governmental actors;

(i) The Secretary-General will deliver closing remarks, which will include a summary of the plenary debate as well as of the interactive multi-stakeholder round tables;

2. *Invites* Member States, observer States and intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly to be represented at the highest possible level;

3. *Invites* the United Nations system, including funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions, relevant special rapporteurs, special representatives and special advisers, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions, to participate in the high-level meeting, including in the interactive multi-stakeholder round tables and preparatory process;

4. *Invites* non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and that have relevant expertise to register with the Secretariat in order to attend the high-level meeting and to participate in the interactive multi-stakeholder round tables and preparatory process;

5. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting;

6. *Also requests* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of other relevant representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may attend the high-level meeting and participate in the interactive round tables, taking into account the principles of transparency and of equitable geographical representation, and with due regard to the meaningful participation of women, and to submit the list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis;¹

7. *Further requests* the President of the General Assembly, as part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, to organize, no later than July 2016, and to preside over, a one-day informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, which would be attended by representatives of Member States, observer States and intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the Assembly, as well as by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, invited civil society organizations and the private sector, and requests the President to prepare a summary of the hearing;

8. *Decides* that the members of refugee and migrant communities who will make statements in the opening plenary meeting may be selected by the President of the General Assembly during the informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, in consultation with the Secretary-General and Member States;

9. *Also decides* that the representatives of civil society and the private sector who also will make statements in the opening plenary meeting, and who will participate in the round tables, may be selected by the President of the General Assembly during the informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, in consultation with the Secretary-General and Member States;

10. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to hold open, transparent and inclusive intergovernmental negotiations with all Member States, through the

¹ The list of proposed as well as final names will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. Where a name is objected to, the objecting Member State will, on a voluntary basis, make known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly the general basis of its objections and the Office will share any information received with any Member State upon its request.

appointed co-facilitators, with a view to agreeing on an outcome document for the high-level meeting;

11. *Decides that:*

(a) The process of intergovernmental negotiations on the outcome document will be in accordance with the rules of procedure and established practices of the General Assembly;

(b) The initial draft of the outcome document will be prepared by the co-facilitators on the basis of views provided by Member States;

(c) Relevant stakeholders, including civil society, scientific and knowledge-based institutions, parliaments, local authorities and the private sector will be able to contribute views, in particular through informal dialogues to which they will be invited by the co-facilitators; the intergovernmental nature of the negotiations, however, will be fully respected;

12. *Envisages* that these negotiations will give due consideration, inter alia, to the report of the Secretary-General on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants,² as well as relevant United Nations or other intergovernmental high-level meetings.

² A/70/59.

**General Assembly**

Distr.: Limited

1 July 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session

Agenda item 117

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**Draft resolution submitted by the President of the
General Assembly****The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism
Strategy Review***The General Assembly,*

Reaffirming the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, contained in General Assembly resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006, and recalling Assembly resolution 68/276 of 13 June 2014, which called for, *inter alia*, an examination of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and of the implementation of the Strategy by Member States and for consideration to be given to updating the Strategy to respond to changes,

Recalling the pivotal role of the General Assembly in following up the implementation and the updating of the Strategy,

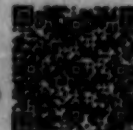
Recalling also General Assembly resolution 66/10 of 18 November 2011, recognizing the important work carried out by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, established within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office, and its role in building the capacity of Member States to counter and respond to terrorism, noting with appreciation its continued contribution to strengthening United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, and encouraging Member States to provide resources and voluntary contributions to the Centre in this regard,

Renewing its unwavering commitment to strengthening international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and reaffirming that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed,

Reaffirming that terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

Recalling the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace,¹

¹ Resolution 53/243.



Noting with appreciation the continued contribution of United Nations entities and the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force,

Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and unity of all States in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing that international cooperation and any measures taken by Member States to prevent and combat terrorism, as well as to prevent violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, must fully comply with their obligations under international law, including the Charter, in particular the purposes and principles thereof, and relevant international conventions and protocols, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Convinced that the General Assembly is the competent organ, with universal membership, to address the issue of international terrorism,

Mindful of the need to enhance the role of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, within their mandates, in the implementation of the Strategy,

Underlining the fact that the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force should continue to carry out its activities within the framework of its mandate, with policy guidance offered by Member States through interaction with the General Assembly on a regular basis,

Reaffirming that the acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, at threatening territorial integrity and the security of States and at destabilizing legitimately constituted Governments, and that the international community should take the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism in a decisive, unified, coordinated, inclusive and transparent manner,

Reiterating the obligation of Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts and to criminalize the wilful provision or collection, by any means, directly or indirectly, of funds by their nationals or in their territories, with the intention that the funds be used, or with the knowledge that they are to be used, in order to carry out terrorist acts,

Recognizing the importance of preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit use of small arms and light weapons by terrorists,

Recognizing also the role of the partnerships of regional and subregional organizations with the United Nations in combating terrorism and encouraging the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, in accordance with its mandate, to closely cooperate and coordinate with regional and subregional organizations in their efforts to combat terrorism,

Alarmed by the acts of intolerance, violent extremism conducive to terrorism, violence, including sectarian violence, and terrorism in various parts of the world, which claim innocent lives, cause destruction and displace people, and rejecting the use of violence, regardless of motivation,

Expressing grave concern over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, namely, individuals who travel to a State other than their States of

residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or providing or receiving terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict, emphasizing the need for States to address this issue, including through the implementation of their international obligations, and underlining the importance of United Nations capacity-building and facilitation of capacity-building in accordance with existing mandates to assist States, including those in the most affected regions, upon their request,

Expressing concern that terrorists may benefit from transnational organized crime in some regions, including from the trafficking of arms, persons, drugs and cultural property and from the illicit trade in natural resources, including oil, and in oil products, modular refineries and related material, gold and other precious metals and stones, minerals, charcoal and wildlife, as well as from kidnapping for ransom and other crimes including extortion, money-laundering and bank robbery, and condemning the destruction of cultural heritage perpetrated by terrorist groups in some countries,

Strongly condemning the systematic recruitment and use of children to perpetrate terrorist attacks, as well as the violations and abuses committed by terrorist groups against children, including killing and maiming, abduction and rape and other forms of sexual violence, and noting that such violations and abuses may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity,

Expressing deep concern about the connections, in some cases, between some forms of transnational organized crime and terrorism, and emphasizing the need to enhance cooperation at the national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen responses to this evolving challenge,

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace, and determined to condemn acts of violent extremism conducive to terrorism and incitement to commit terrorist acts that spread hate and threaten lives,

Taking note of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism,² including its conclusions and recommendations,

Recognizing the role that victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations can play, including in countering the appeal of terrorism, and emphasizing the need to promote international solidarity in support of victims of terrorism and to ensure that victims of terrorism are treated with dignity and respect,

Affirming the importance of education as a tool to help prevent terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and welcoming the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's engagement with Member States to implement strategies to prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism through education,

Noting the important contribution of women to the implementation of the Strategy, and encouraging Member States, United Nations entities and international, regional and subregional organizations to ensure the participation and leadership of women in efforts to prevent violent extremism and counter terrorism,

² A/HRC/25/39.

Expressing deep concern that acts of sexual and gender-based violence are known to be part of the strategic objectives and ideology of certain terrorist groups and are used as an instrument to increase their power through supporting financing and recruitment and through the destruction of communities,

Noting the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism, as well as for the promotion of peace and security, and in this regard expressing concern about the danger of recruitment and radicalization to terrorism, including in prisons,

Stressing the importance of the development and maintenance of effective, fair, humane, transparent and accountable criminal justice systems, taking into account, inter alia, the rights and needs of children, in accordance with applicable international law, as a fundamental basis of any strategy to counter terrorism, calling on Member States' continued efforts to combat terrorism through national legislation and establish such justice systems, and further stressing the need for training of professionals in the criminal justice systems of Member States, upon their request, including through bilateral and multilateral programmes and experience-sharing with a view to developing a common understanding of threats and providing an effective response,

Stressing also that a national criminal justice system based on respect for human rights and the rule of law, due process and fair trial guarantees, is one of the best means for effectively countering terrorism and ensuring accountability,

Taking note of the request by the Security Council to the Counter-Terrorism Committee to present a proposal to the Council by 30 April 2017 for a comprehensive international framework, with recommended guidelines and good practices to effectively counter, in compliance with international law, the ways that Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities use their narratives to encourage, motivate and recruit others to commit terrorist acts, including with a counter-narrative campaign, consistent with any similar campaign undertaken by the United Nations, as well as options for coordinating the implementation of the framework and mobilizing resources as necessary,

Taking note also of the Geneva Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism: The Way Forward, co-hosted by the Government of Switzerland and the United Nations, held on 7 and 8 April 2016,

Reaffirming Member States' determination to continue to do all they can to resolve conflict, end foreign occupation, confront oppression, eradicate poverty, promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development, global prosperity, good governance, human rights for all and the rule of law, improve intercultural understanding and ensure respect for all religions, religious values, beliefs and cultures,

Reaffirming also the commitment of Member States to take measures aimed at addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including but not limited to prolonged unresolved conflicts, dehumanization of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, lack of the rule of law and violations of human rights, ethnic, national and religious discrimination, political exclusion, socioeconomic marginalization and lack of good governance, while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism,

1. *Reiterates its strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes;*
2. *Reaffirms the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars, which constitute an ongoing effort, and calls upon Member States, the United Nations and other appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations to step up their efforts to implement the Strategy in an integrated and balanced manner and in all its aspects;*
3. *Stresses the importance of keeping the Strategy relevant and contemporary in the light of emerging new threats and evolving trends of international terrorism;*
4. *Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Activities of the United Nations system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy",³ welcomes the summary matrix of counter-terrorism projects implemented by United Nations entities around the world and the efforts deployed by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office in this regard, and underlines the importance of providing the necessary resources for the implementation of these projects;*
5. *Also takes note of the measures that Member States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations have adopted within the framework of the Strategy, as referred to in paragraph 22 of the report of the Secretary-General,³ which are to be considered at the fifth biennial review of the Strategy, on 30 June and 1 July 2016, all of which strengthen cooperation to fight terrorism, including through the exchange of best practices;*
6. *Reaffirms the principal responsibility of Member States to implement the Strategy, while further recognizing the need to enhance the important role that the United Nations, including the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, plays, in coordination with other international, regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, in facilitating and promoting coordination and coherence in the implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional and global levels and in providing assistance, upon request by Member States, especially in the area of capacity-building;*
7. *Affirms the importance of the integrated and balanced implementation of all pillars of the Strategy, recognizing the need to redouble efforts for even attention paid to and even implementation of all the pillars of the Strategy;*
8. *Stresses the significance of a sustained and comprehensive approach, including through stronger efforts, where necessary, to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, bearing in mind that terrorism will not be defeated by military force, law enforcement measures and intelligence operations alone;*
9. *Recognizes the principal responsibility of Member States to implement the Strategy, while encouraging the further elaboration and development of national, subregional and regional plans, as appropriate, to support the implementation of the Strategy;*

³ A/70/826.

10. *Encourages* civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to engage, as appropriate, in efforts to enhance the implementation of the Strategy, including through interaction with Member States and the United Nations system, and encourages Member States and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and its entities to enhance engagement with civil society in accordance with their mandates, as appropriate, and to support its role in the implementation of the Strategy;
11. *Encourages* Member States to engage relevant local communities and non-governmental actors, where appropriate, in developing tailored strategies to counter the violent extremist narrative that can incite recruitment to terrorist groups and the commission of terrorist acts and to address the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism, as and when conducive to terrorism;
12. *Calls upon* all Member States, given the complex global security context today, to highlight the important role of women in countering terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, and urges Member States and United Nations entities to integrate a gender analysis on the drivers of radicalization of women to terrorism into their relevant programmes, to consider, when appropriate, the impacts of counter-terrorism strategies on women's human rights and women's organizations and to seek greater consultations with women and women's organizations when developing strategies to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;
13. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations entities, regional and subregional organizations and relevant actors to consider instituting mechanisms to involve youth in the promotion of a culture of peace, tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue and develop, as appropriate, an understanding of respect for human dignity, pluralism, diversity, including, as appropriate, through education programmes, that could discourage their participation in acts of terrorism, violent extremism conducive to terrorism, violence, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination, also encourages Member States to empower youth through the promotion of media and information literacy, by including youth in decision-making processes and considering practical ways to include youth in the development of relevant programmes and initiatives aimed at preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and urges Member States to take effective measures, in conformity with international law, to protect young people affected or exploited by terrorism or violent extremism conducive to terrorism;
14. *Recognizes* the need for Member States to prevent the abuse of non-governmental, non-profit and charitable organizations by and for terrorists, and calls upon non-governmental, non-profit and charitable organizations to prevent and oppose, as appropriate, attempts by terrorists to abuse the status of those organizations, while reaffirming the need to fully respect the rights to freedom of expression and association of individuals in civil society and to freedom of religion or belief of all persons;
15. *Calls upon* Member States and the United Nations entities involved in supporting counter-terrorism efforts to continue to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as due process and the rule of law, while countering terrorism, and in this regard expresses serious concern at the occurrence of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

as well as of international refugee and humanitarian law, committed in the context of countering terrorism;

16. *Stresses* that when counter-terrorism efforts neglect the rule of law, at the national and international levels, and violate international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law and refugee law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, they not only betray the values they seek to uphold, they may also further fuel violent extremism that can be conducive to terrorism;

17. *Calls for* greater coordination and coherence among the United Nations entities and with donors and recipients of counter-terrorism capacity-building, including in developing and maintaining effective and rule of law-based criminal justice systems, and also calls for dialogue to be enhanced among all stakeholders, with a view to placing national perspectives at the centre of such capacity-building in order to strengthen national ownership, while recognizing that rule of law activities must be anchored in a national context and that States have different national experiences in the development of their criminal justice systems, taking into account their legal, political, socioeconomic, cultural, religious and other local specificities, while also recognizing that there are common features founded on international norms and standards;

18. *Reiterates* that, given their potential status as victims of terrorism as well as of other violations of international law, every child alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed the law, particularly those who are deprived of their liberty, as well as child victims and witnesses of crimes, should be treated in a manner consistent with his or her rights, dignity and needs, in accordance with applicable international law, in particular obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁴ and, bearing in mind relevant international standards on human rights in the administration of justice in this regard, urges Member States to take relevant measures to effectively reintegrate children formerly associated with armed groups, including terrorist groups;

19. *Urges* all States to respect and protect the right to privacy, as set out in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁵ and article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁶ including in the context of digital communication, also while countering terrorism, in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights law, and to take measures to ensure that interferences with or restrictions on that right are not arbitrary or unlawful and are subject to effective oversight and to appropriate redress, including through judicial review or other legal means;

20. *Calls upon* States, while countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism, to review their procedures, practices and legislation regarding the surveillance of communications, their interception and the collection of personal data, including mass surveillance, interception and collection, with a view to upholding the right to privacy, as set out in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, by ensuring the full and effective implementation of all their obligations under international human rights law;

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁵ Resolution 217 A (III).

⁶ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

21. *Urges* Member States to ensure that any measures taken or means employed to counter terrorism, including the use of remotely piloted aircraft, comply with their obligations under international law, including the Charter, human rights law and international humanitarian law, in particular the principles of distinction and proportionality;
22. *Urges* States to ensure, in accordance with their obligations under international law and national regulations, and whenever international humanitarian law is applicable, that counter-terrorism legislation and measures do not impede humanitarian and medical activities or engagement with all relevant actors as foreseen by international humanitarian law;
23. *Recognizes* the work done and efforts made by the relevant United Nations bodies and entities and other international, regional and subregional organizations aimed at supporting, recognizing and protecting the rights of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and urges them to step up their efforts to provide, upon request, technical assistance for building the capacity of Member States in the development and implementation of programmes of assistance and support for victims of terrorism;
24. *Deeply deplores* the suffering caused by terrorism to the victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to their families, expresses its profound solidarity with them, encourages Member States to provide them with proper support and assistance while taking into account, inter alia, when appropriate, considerations regarding remembrance, dignity, respect, justice and truth, in accordance with international law;
25. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to increase its transparency, accountability and effectiveness, and calls upon the Task Force and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre to improve the strategic nature and impact of their programmes and policies;
26. *Calls upon* States that have not done so to consider becoming parties in a timely manner to the existing international conventions and protocols against terrorism, and upon all States to make every effort to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, and recalls the commitments of Member States with regard to the implementation of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relating to international terrorism;
27. *Underlines*, in that regard, the importance of greater coordination among United Nations entities and of the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system, as well as the need to continue promoting transparency and to avoid duplication in their work;
28. *Recognizes* the continued need to enhance the visibility and effectiveness of United Nations counter-terrorism activities and ensure greater cooperation, coordination and coherence among United Nations entities, with a view to maximizing synergies, promoting transparency and greater efficiencies and avoiding duplication of their work;
29. *Reaffirms* the need for enhanced dialogue among the counter-terrorism officials, including among law enforcement entities and financial intelligence units, of Member States to promote international, regional and subregional cooperation

and wider dissemination of knowledge of the Strategy in order to counter terrorism, and in that regard recalls the role of the United Nations system, in particular the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, in promoting international cooperation and capacity-building as elements of the Strategy;

30. *Recognizes* the role of the regional organizations, structures and strategies in combating terrorism, and encourages those entities to enhance interregional dialogue and cooperation and consider using best practices developed by other regions in their fight against terrorism, as appropriate, taking into account their specific regional and national circumstances;

31. *Calls upon* all Member States, in accordance with their obligations under applicable international law, including the Charter, to deny terrorist groups safe haven, freedom of operations, movement and recruitment and financial, material or political support, which endanger national, regional and international peace and security, and to bring to justice or, where appropriate, extradite, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, the perpetrators of terrorist acts or any person who supports, facilitates or participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning or preparation of terrorist acts;

32. *Urges* Member States to provide full coordination and afford one another the greatest measure of assistance, in accordance with their obligations under international law, in criminal investigations or criminal proceedings relating to the financing or support of terrorist acts, especially with those States where, or against whose citizens, terrorist acts are committed, including obtaining evidence for the proceedings involving terrorist organizations, terrorist entities or foreign terrorist fighters, and recalls that all States must cooperate fully in the fight against terrorism on the basis of mutual legal assistance and the principle of extradite or prosecute, welcoming their efforts to elaborate on the existing extradition and mutual legal assistance mechanisms;

33. *Calls on* Member States to prevent refugee status from being abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts, also calls on Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure, before granting asylum, that the asylum-seeker has not planned, facilitated or participated in the commission of terrorist acts, while reaffirming the importance to protect refugees and asylum-seekers in accordance with States' obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law;

34. *Urges* Member States to ensure no tolerance for terrorism, regardless of the targets or motives, and reaffirms its call to refrain from organizing, instigating, facilitating, participating in, financing, encouraging or tolerating terrorist activities and to take appropriate practical measures to ensure that their respective territories are not used for terrorist installations or training camps, or for the preparation or organization of terrorist acts intended to be committed against other States or their citizens;

35. *Encourages* Member States to consider better ways to cooperate to exchange information, assist each other, prosecute those who use information and communications technologies for terrorist purposes and implement other appropriate cooperative measures to address such threats;

36. *Expresses concern* over terrorist acts committed by lone terrorists in various parts of the world, acknowledges the specific challenges created by lone

terrorists as they are difficult to detect, and recognizes the need to address this issue expeditiously;

37. *Emphasizes* that tolerance, pluralism, respect for diversity, dialogue among civilizations and the enhancement of interfaith and intercultural understanding and respect among peoples, including at the national, regional and global levels, while avoiding the escalation of hatred, are among the most important elements in promoting cooperation, in combating terrorism and in countering violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, and welcomes the various initiatives to this end;

38. *Urges* all Member States and the United Nations to unite against violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, encourages the efforts of leaders to discuss within their communities the drivers of violent extremism conducive to terrorism and to evolve strategies to address them, and underlines that States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and facilitating understanding, inclusive dialogue and respect for religious and cultural diversity and human rights;

39. *Recognizes* the difficulties faced by the international community in addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, and urges Member States and the United Nations system to take measures, pursuant to international law and while ensuring national ownership, to address all drivers of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, both internal and external, in a balanced manner;

40. *Also recognizes* the importance of preventing violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism and, in this regard, recalls its resolution 70/254, in which it welcomed the initiative by the Secretary-General and took note of his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism,⁷ recommends that Member States consider the implementation of relevant recommendations of the Plan of Action, as applicable to the national context, encourages United Nations entities, in line with their mandates, to implement relevant recommendations of the Plan of Action, including by providing technical assistance to Member States upon their request, and invites Member States, regional and subregional organizations to consider developing national and regional plans of action to prevent violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, in accordance with their priorities and taking into account, as appropriate, the Secretary-General's Plan of Action, as well as other relevant documents;

41. *Underlines* the importance of multilateral efforts in combating terrorism and refraining from any practices and measures inconsistent with international law and the principles of the Charter;

42. *Expresses its concern* at the increasing use, in a globalized society, by terrorists and their supporters, of information and communications technologies, in particular the Internet and other media, and the use of such technologies to commit, incite, recruit for, fund or plan terrorist acts, notes the importance of cooperation among stakeholders in the implementation of the Strategy, including among Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations, the private

⁷ A/70/674.

sector and civil society, to address this issue, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and complying with international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter, and reiterates that such technologies can be powerful tools in countering the spread of terrorism, including by promoting tolerance and dialogue among peoples and peace;

43. *Stresses* that it is essential to address the threat posed by narratives used by terrorists, and that, in this regard, the international community should consider developing an accurate understanding of how terrorists motivate others to commit terrorist acts or recruit them, and develop the most effective means to counter terrorist propaganda, incitement and recruitment, including through the Internet, in compliance with international law, including international human rights law;

44. *Calls upon* all Member States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to cooperate in efforts to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including by preventing the radicalization to terrorism and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters, including children, preventing foreign terrorist fighters from crossing their borders, disrupting and preventing financial support to foreign terrorist fighters, and developing and implementing prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for returning foreign terrorist fighters and in this regard, encourages all Member States to develop effective strategies to deal with returnees, including through repatriation, in accordance with relevant international obligations and national law;

45. *Expresses concern* at the increase, in some regions, in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups, for any purpose, including with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions, notes that ransoms paid to terrorists are used as one of the sources of funding for their activities, including further kidnappings, calls upon all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefiting from ransom payments and political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages, in accordance with applicable legal obligations, and encourages Member States to cooperate, as appropriate, during incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups;

46. *Encourages* all Member States to collaborate with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and to contribute to the implementation of its activities within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, including through the development, funding and implementation of capacity-building projects in order to mobilize a stronger and more systematic response to terrorism at the national, regional and global levels;

47. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken in the area of capacity-building, including in the areas of countering the financing of terrorism, border control, maritime and aviation security, and preventing the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, by United Nations entities, including the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities, inter alia, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), in coordination with other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to assist Member States, upon their request, in implementing the Strategy, and encourages the Task Force to ensure focused delivery of capacity-building assistance, including in the framework of the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism Initiative;

48. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including its Terrorism Prevention Branch, to further enhance, in close consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, its provision of technical assistance to States, upon request, to facilitate the implementation of the international conventions and protocols related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism and of relevant United Nations resolutions and to promote, inter alia, international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism, including foreign terrorist fighters, especially with regard to extradition and mutual legal assistance;

49. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, whenever appropriate, to take into account in its technical assistance to counter terrorism, upon request, the elements necessary for building national capacity in order to strengthen criminal justice systems and the rule of law;

50. *Stresses* the need to continue to provide tangible capacity-building assistance to Member States in counter-terrorism matters, recognizes in this regard the need to contribute more resources for capacity-building projects, welcomes in that respect the development of the United Nations capacity-building implementation plan for countering the flow of foreign terrorist fighters by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and encourages Member States to provide needed financial and other assistance to the Task Force and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre for the effective delivery of the projects mentioned in that plan, in close consultation with Member States;

51. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen cooperation at the international, regional, subregional and bilateral levels to counter the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including through enhanced operational and timely information-sharing, logistical support, as appropriate, and capacity-building activities, to share and adopt best practices to identify foreign terrorist fighters, to prevent the travel of foreign terrorist fighters from, into or through Member States, to prevent the financing, mobilization, recruitment and organization of foreign terrorist fighters, to strengthen international and regional cooperation in information-sharing, and upon law enforcement and criminal justice authorities to better counter the threat of returning foreign terrorist fighters, to counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism and radicalization to terrorism, to enhance efforts to implement de-radicalization programmes and to ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in the supporting of terrorist acts or in providing funds to terrorists is brought to justice, in compliance with obligations under international law, as well as applicable domestic law;

52. *Expresses concern* that international networks have been established by terrorist organizations that facilitate the travel of foreign terrorist fighters to conflict zones, and calls upon all Member States to take appropriate measures to dismantle such networks, in accordance with their international obligations;

53. *Expresses its concern* at the increasing flow of international recruits to terrorist organizations, including foreign terrorist fighters, and at the threat it poses for all Member States, including countries of origin, transit and destination, encourages all Member States to address this threat by enhancing their cooperation and developing relevant measures to prevent and tackle this phenomenon, including information-sharing, border management to detect travel, and appropriate criminal

justice response, and to consider the use of United Nations instruments, such as sanctions regimes, as well as cooperation;

54. *Notes* that terrorists may craft distorted narratives that are based on the misinterpretation and misrepresentation of religion to justify violence, which are utilized to recruit supporters and foreign terrorist fighters, mobilize resources and garner support from sympathizers, in particular by exploiting information and communications technologies, including through the Internet and social media, and further notes, in this regard, the urgent need for the international community to globally counter such activities;

55. *Recognizes* the need to continue to take measures to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism, in this regard encourages United Nations entities to cooperate with Member States and to continue to provide assistance, upon their request, in particular, to help them to fully implement their respective international obligations to combat the financing of terrorism, and also encourages Member States to further build the capacity of their financial oversight and regulatory systems around the world in order to deny terrorists the space to exploit and raise funds, including by cooperating with the private sector through public-private partnerships with financial institutions and by taking into account the assessments thereof by relevant entities such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate;

56. *Encourages* Member States and the international and regional organizations to enhance knowledge of and support initiatives to address, in the design and implementation of global, regional and national counter-terrorism strategies, the linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime;

57. *Calls upon* Member States to engage with domestic financial institutions and share information on terrorist financing risks to provide greater context for their work in identifying potential terrorist financing activity through multiple authorities and channels, including law enforcement, intelligence, security services and financial intelligence units, and also calls upon Member States to improve the integration and utilization of financial intelligence to more effectively counter the terrorist financing threats;

58. *Calls upon* all States to adopt such measures as may be necessary and appropriate, and in accordance with their obligations under international law, to prohibit by law incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts, prevent such conduct and deny safe haven to any persons with respect to whom there is credible and relevant information giving serious reasons for considering that they have been guilty of such conduct;

59. *Calls upon* all Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, urges all Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials, equipment and technologies related to their manufacture, and encourages cooperation among and between Member States and relevant regional and international organizations for strengthening national capacities in this regard;

60. *Recognizes* that improvised explosive devices may be used in terrorist activities, takes note of the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task

Force in this regard and urges its further attention to the issue of improvised explosive devices in line with the mandates of its associated entities;

61. *Recalls* relevant United Nations resolutions and reaffirms that Member States shall eliminate the supply of weapons, including small arms and light weapons, to terrorists, as well as prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade of said weapons, including their diversion, to terrorists;

62. *Calls for* the enhanced engagement of Member States with the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force;

63. *Requests* the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to continue its positive efforts in interacting with Member States, and further requests the Task Force to continue to provide quarterly briefings and to provide a periodic workplan for the Task Force, including the activities of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre;

64. *Encourages* the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to work closely with Member States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to identify and share best practices to prevent terrorist attacks on potentially vulnerable targets, and recognizes the importance of developing public-private partnerships in this area;

65. *Recalls* all resolutions of the General Assembly on measures to eliminate international terrorism and relevant resolutions of the Assembly on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and all resolutions of the Security Council relating to international terrorism, and calls upon Member States to cooperate fully with the relevant bodies of the United Nations in the fulfilment of their tasks, recognizing that many States continue to require assistance in implementing these resolutions;

66. *Encourages* all relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and forums involved in the fight against terrorism to cooperate with the United Nations system and Member States in supporting the Strategy and to share best practices, and calls for information-sharing, through appropriate channels and arrangements, on individuals and entities implicated in any type of terrorist activities, their tactics and modus operandi, supply of weapons and sources of material or any other form of support, specific crimes related to perpetration, planning or preparation of terrorist acts, narratives used by terrorists to mobilize resources and garner support from sympathizers, including by exploiting information and communications technologies, and on the ongoing international counter-terrorism cooperation, especially among special services, security agencies and law enforcement organizations and criminal justice authorities;

67. *Underscores* the role, within the United Nations, of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, including in assessing issues and trends relating to the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, 1624 (2005) of 14 September 2005 and 2178 (2014) of 24 September 2014, in accordance with its mandate and Council resolution 2129 (2013) of 17 December 2013, and in sharing information, as appropriate, with relevant United Nations counter-terrorism bodies and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations;

68. *Recognizes* that Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and its affiliates continue to pose a widespread challenge in the fight against terrorism, encourages Member States to integrate the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida sanctions regime, pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999, 1989 (2011) of 17 June 2011 and 2253 (2015) of 17 December 2015, into their national and regional counter-terrorism strategies, including by proposing for inclusion on the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida sanctions list the names of individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, reminds Member States of their obligation to ensure that their nationals and persons in their territory do not make economic resources available to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, and takes note of the significant contribution of the Office of the Ombudsperson, since its establishment, in providing fairness and transparency to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida sanctions regime, and stresses the need to continue efforts to ensure that procedures are fair and clear;

69. *Underlines* the importance of enhancing counter-terrorism efforts undertaken by all relevant United Nations agencies and bodies in accordance with their existing mandates, and encourages the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to continue its collaboration with those agencies and bodies;

70. *Notes* the letter from the Secretary-General dated 9 June 2016 regarding the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture, and, welcoming his assurance regarding further enhancing the coordination and coherence of counter-terrorism activities across the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, both at Headquarters and in the field, without changing the overall architecture, as well as his suggestion that Member States may use the review to make recommendations to his successor, requests the Secretary-General to review, in consultation with the General Assembly, the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States, upon their request, in implementing the Strategy in a balanced manner, including by strengthening cooperation with other international and regional organizations and improving the mobilization of resources necessary for capacity-building projects, with a view to providing concrete suggestions to the Assembly in this regard, by May 2017, for consideration by the Assembly during its seventy-first session;

71. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, no later than April 2018, a report on progress made in the implementation of the Strategy, containing suggestions for its future implementation by the United Nations system, as well as on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

72. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy" in order to undertake, by June 2018, an examination of the report of the Secretary-General requested in paragraph 71 above, as well as of the implementation of the Strategy by Member States, and to consider updating the Strategy to respond to changes.

**General Assembly**

Distr.: Limited
13 July 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session

Agenda item 23 (a)

**Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to
the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least
Developed Countries**

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

**Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm
Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action
for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 69/231 of 19 December 2014, in which it decided to conduct a comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, as well as its resolutions 70/216 of 22 December 2015 and 70/261 of 15 April 2016,

1. *Endorses the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, adopted by the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review, which is contained in the annex to the present resolution;*

2. *Expresses its profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Turkey for hosting the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review from 27 to 29 May 2016 and for providing all the necessary support.*

16-12044 (E) 150716



Please recycle



Annex**Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives participating in the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, are gathered here in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016 to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, to share best practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered and actions and initiatives needed to overcome them, as well as new challenges and emerging issues, to reaffirm the global commitment to address the special needs of the least developed countries made in Istanbul, Turkey, and to further strengthen the global partnership for development for the least developed countries in all priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action in order to ensure the timely, effective and full implementation of the Programme of Action during the remainder of the decade, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, the Paris Agreement adopted by parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
2. We recognize the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review as an opportunity to highlight the concrete measures, initiatives, partnerships and actions that various stakeholders have undertaken to date to support the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and to launch other concrete measures, initiatives and partnerships, individually or collectively, that have the potential to further progress the implementation of the Programme of Action, building on the momentum of recent and relevant United Nations meetings, agendas and conferences and the decisions adopted therein.
3. We recognize that over the past few decades the world has witnessed remarkable socioeconomic progress, with most of the Millennium Development Goals and targets achieved globally. However, not all countries have fully shared in this global progress. Performances among the least developed countries were mixed. The majority of the least developed countries, which constitute the poorest and most vulnerable group of countries, were not able to achieve most of the Millennium Development Goals. Nevertheless, many of the least developed countries have adopted stronger policies, strengthened governance and achieved substantial gains in reducing the prevalence of extreme poverty and improved health and education outcomes. Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals was slowest in the least developed countries in conflict and post-conflict situations; those countries require context-specific approaches, including targeted national policies and international support.
4. We recognize that, despite the many challenges and constraints, the least developed countries represent an enormous human and natural resource potential for

world economic growth, welfare, prosperity and food and energy security. Therefore, a strengthened global partnership that effectively addresses the special needs of the least developed countries, including children, young people and women, will contribute to the cause of peace, prosperity, poverty eradication and sustainable development for all.

5. We reaffirm our commitment to the full, effective and timely implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. We also reaffirm our commitment to the full and timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and our support for mainstreaming it into the national development policies and programmes of the least developed countries. We also reaffirm our determination to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development, in a spirit of global solidarity, focused in particular on the eradication of poverty and promotion of inclusive growth and the implementation of social protection systems, particularly for the poorest and most vulnerable.

I. State of progress and lessons learned in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action

6. We note that many of the least developed countries have made considerable progress in achieving positive and sustainable development outcomes, in spite of significant challenges and constraints. For many of them, growth performance and prospects have been good on a sustained basis. Most of the least developed countries have significantly increased domestic resource mobilization and use for sustainable development. National ownership and leadership at the country level is essential for sustained progress in all priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

7. We are concerned that, in the context of the overall slowdown in the international economy, the least developed countries as a group are experiencing a slowdown of their economies, with growth rates falling from 5.1 per cent in 2014 to an estimated 4.5 per cent in 2015,¹ which is significantly lower than the growth rate achieved during 2001-2010 and falls far short of the Sustainable Development Goal target of at least 7 per cent gross domestic product (GDP) growth per annum in the near term, and those that are highly dependent on commodity exports have seen a pronounced decline in their export earnings and GDP growth.

8. We recognize that many of the least developed countries continue to face multiple structural challenges and constraints, including, inter alia, narrow production and export bases, stagnant trade and investment flows, diminishing productivity growth, weak land and natural resource governance, and widespread poverty, hunger and malnutrition. These long-standing challenges are compounded by new and emerging challenges, such as climate change, increased incidences of natural disasters and public health emergencies, conflicts, declining commodity prices and rising capital outflows. Without a structural transformation that tackles institutional and capacity constraints, the least developed countries will remain vulnerable to various economic, social and environmental shocks.

¹ *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2016* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.II.C.2).

9. Continued robust external support, including through official development assistance (ODA), is necessary to complement domestic resources and national policies and programmes to effectively assist each of the least developed countries in addressing these important issues. We recognize the important contribution of the existing preferences extended to the least developed countries.

10. We recognize that swift action in areas related to productive capacity, infrastructure and energy, agriculture, food security and nutrition and rural development, economy, trade and investment, good governance at all levels, human development, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, financing for development, science, technology and innovation, migration and remittances, and resilience building are necessary to realize the Istanbul Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promise of leaving no one behind.

General objectives, goals and targets

11. We recognize that, while the least developed countries have made significant efforts towards achieving the objectives, goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action, a lot still remains to be done by them and their development partners. There is a need to foster progress across all sectors. We reaffirm our commitment to give special attention to the least developed countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Graduation

12. We congratulate those countries that have graduated from least developed country status and welcome the fact that many of the least developed countries are meeting the criteria for graduation and many others have expressed their aspirations to graduate. We note with concern that, since the least developed country category was established in 1971, only four countries have officially graduated. Based on current trends, concerted and revitalized efforts will be required to enable half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020, as foreseen in the Istanbul Programme of Action. Particular attention should be given to the smooth transition of countries graduating from least developed country status, consistent with their transition strategy, taking into account each country's particular development situation.

Productive capacity

13. We recognize that increasing productive capacity leads to inclusive economic growth and social development and is vital to the achievement of sustainable development and for building resilience. During the past five years, limited progress was achieved in production diversification and value addition as well as in the effective participation of the least developed countries in regional and global value chains, which are critical for those countries in reversing their marginalization, building productive capacities, accelerating structural transformation and generating full and productive employment and decent work for all with quick impact on poverty eradication. This situation requires strategic policy interventions at the subnational, national, regional and international levels, as well as at the sectoral level. In this regard, regional cooperation and integration can play a catalytic role.

Infrastructure and energy

14. We stress that the development of sustainable and resilient physical infrastructure, the promotion of sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation are important prerequisites for sustained economic growth and sustainable development. A significant amount of investment and technology development is essential, including through public-private partnerships, innovative financing and regional integration, supported by appropriate and transparent national policies, practices, institutions and regulations that foster a strong investment climate. Enhanced financial and technical support by development partners for infrastructure development and management in the least developed countries, as well as continued support for those countries' efforts to strengthen the underlying investment climate, promote science, technology and innovation, and facilitate the transfer of relevant skills, knowledge and technology for the development of infrastructure under mutually agreed terms, also remain crucial for infrastructure development in the least developed countries.

15. We emphasize that the acute energy gap faced by the least developed countries is a severe constraint on their structural transformation. Access to energy is often not provided because of lack of finance, technology, infrastructure for the generation and supply of energy, appropriate regulation and economic and technical skills. Skill development and improvement of the capacity of local enterprise to deliver good-quality products and services on an economically sustainable basis are also important to establish inclusive energy systems that also reach rural areas and the poorest part of the population. Addressing these issues will be crucial in providing access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030. Such access is a key development enabler and multiplier, which can foster private sector development, strengthen productive capacity-building, expand trade and promote access to better social services and food security. Ensuring technological progress is also key to finding lasting solutions to both economic and environmental challenges, such as providing productive employment and decent work for all and promoting energy efficiency.

Agriculture, food security and nutrition and rural development

16. We acknowledge that progress in the development of the agricultural sector and related industries, which employs more than half of the population in most of the least developed countries, is critical for sustainable development.

17. We recognize that low agricultural productivity and the availability and affordability of safe food remain major challenges in many of the least developed countries. Some 210 million people in the least developed countries, predominantly in rural areas, do not have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food. Moreover, the least developed countries are urbanizing rapidly, and the proportion of urban residents who experience hunger and malnutrition is growing. The agriculture sector in the least developed countries continues to be affected by structural factors such as insufficient public and private investment in physical infrastructure and in research and agricultural extension services, limited access to markets, lack of secure land tenure, particularly for smallholder farmers and women, limited capacity-building, slow progress in regulatory and policy reforms and in scientific and technological development, lack of access to financial services, including insurance, poor investment climate, inadequate support to enhance the situation of women in rural

areas, trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, and public stockholding in a manner that adversely affects food security, as well as periodic economic shocks such as price fluctuations. We note that less than 7 per cent of total ODA going to the least developed countries is allocated to agriculture. Furthermore, agriculture development has been suffering from the adverse impacts of climate change and extreme weather events, less predictable weather patterns, soil degradation, salinity intrusion, sea level rise and coastal erosion, declining water availability and degrading water quality due to the increasing frequency of droughts and floods, and soil and water contamination. We reaffirm our commitment to work together to address these challenges in the least developed countries. We also note that integrated water resource management and intersectoral approaches among water, food and energy to increase synergies and manage trade-offs are essential.

Economy, trade and investment

18. We are concerned that the growth rates of the least developed countries have fallen since 2011, and we emphasize the importance of reversing this trend. As identified in the Istanbul Programme of Action, trade and investment are major drivers of economic growth, employment generation and structural transformation. The challenge is also one of fostering inclusive growth, including through the empowerment of all women and girls and achieving gender equality, while promoting sustainable development, as the pace of reduction of poverty has not been commensurate with the economic growth rate.

19. We note some improvement in market access for products of the least developed countries in some developing countries during the past five years. We express our concern that the least developed countries' exports remained highly concentrated in a few primary products vulnerable to commodity price volatility and to exogenous economic and environmental shocks. The share of the least developed countries in world exports remained stagnant, standing in 2014 at 1.1 per cent and dropping to 0.97 per cent in 2015, a level that is far behind the objective of doubling their share of global exports by 2020, mentioned in the Istanbul Programme of Action. We acknowledge that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system is key to promoting export diversification, trade and economic growth.

20. We are concerned that the share of the least developed countries in global foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows remains virtually unchanged from 2013 at 1.9 per cent and that FDI in the least developed countries remains concentrated in a small number of mineral-rich economies. We stress that economic diversification and a positive enabling environment for investments at all levels, as well as stronger and more focused policies and measures by the least developed countries, home countries of FDI, international organizations and other stakeholders, can substantially increase FDI flows to the least developed countries in the coming years.

21. We recognize that full and productive employment and decent work for all remains a central objective of macroeconomic and fiscal policies so that the benefits of growth reach all people, especially the poor, with a focus on mutually supportive strategies that lead to the rapid expansion of productive employment in the least developed countries and optimize the contribution of women and young people to economic growth and poverty reduction.

Good governance at all levels and human development

22. We recognize that the promotion and protection of human rights, good governance, transparency, democratic participation, the rule of law at the national and international levels, human development, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are essential to achieving peace, prosperity and sustainable development in the least developed countries. Since the adoption of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the least developed countries have made some progress in these areas, yet considerable efforts are still needed. Several of the least developed countries have joined the Open Government Partnership, and we welcome their commitments to making their Governments more open, accountable and responsive to citizens. Forty-two of the least developed countries have become parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Substantial progress towards achieving education for all at the primary level has been made, including gender parity for one third of the least developed countries. Nearly 20 per cent of all parliamentarians in the least developed countries are women. We also recognize that the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if women and girls continue to be denied the full realization of their human rights and opportunities.

23. We recognize that qualified and skilled human resources can make important contributions to sustainable development in the least developed countries. While much progress has been made towards achieving education for all at the primary and secondary levels, much more remains to be done to ensure that the over 24 million children of primary school age not in school and the over 22 million out-of-school adolescents of lower secondary school age in the least developed countries have access to quality education. Strengthened efforts by the least developed countries and their development partners are also needed to ensure that education is of good quality and that it provides all learners with the skills needed to access employment and decent work.

24. We note that greater efforts are also needed to better engage and empower young people. They need opportunities to learn, work and participate in decision-making processes and to contribute to building inclusive and peaceful societies that are free from violence. Particular efforts are needed to ensure that all young people, including girls, enjoy access to lifelong learning opportunities and equal access to quality education at all levels: early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary education, as well as technical and vocational training. In this regard, we note with concern the lack of progress in closing gender gaps in access to, retention in and completion of secondary education.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

25. We recognize that further efforts are needed to remove the barriers that women and girls face regarding gender-based violence, access to safe learning environments, quality education, criminal justice systems, health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health, safe drinking water and sanitation and equal rights with men to economic opportunities such as employment, decent work, equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, entrepreneurship, participation in trade, access to and ownership of productive resources, including land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technology. Women and girls are also more vulnerable to climate change impacts. We must work

to strengthen our attention to the full and effective participation of women and girls in decision-making at all levels as well as the elimination of discrimination, all forms of violence and harmful practices against women and girls, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

26. We reaffirm that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls, and the full realization of the human rights of all people are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development. We reiterate the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies.

Financing for development

27. We recognize that significant additional domestic public resources, including at the subnational level, supplemented by international assistance as appropriate, will be critical to realizing sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda acknowledge the centrality of domestic resource mobilization underscored by the principle of national ownership and the important contribution of private investment, including FDI, for the achievement of sustainable development. While the least developed countries have made considerable efforts to mobilize domestic resources and attract private investment, further progress is needed.

28. We note that, as a result of cooperation between the United Nations, the Group of 20, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, there has been international progress in identifying and addressing the base erosion and profit shifting challenges for developing countries and ensuring that all countries, including the least developed countries, can take advantage of increases in tax transparency and exchange of information, such as by implementing the new international standard of automatic exchange of information.

29. We are also concerned by the impact that illicit financial flows have in draining resources away from the least developed countries. Illicit financial flows have an adverse impact on domestic resource mobilization and on the sustainability of public finances. The activities that underlie illicit financial flows, such as corruption, embezzlement, fraud, tax evasion, safe havens that create incentives for transfer of stolen assets abroad, money-laundering and illegal exploitation of natural resources, are also detrimental to development. We emphasize the importance of working together, including through increased international cooperation to stem corruption and identify, freeze and recover stolen assets and return them to their countries of origin, in a manner consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

30. We recognize that international public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically. For the least developed countries as a group, ODA remains the largest source of external financing. The decline in ODA going to the least developed countries during the past years was a worrisome trend, and the level of 0.09 per cent of gross national income (GNI) attained in 2014 remained below the relevant 0.15-0.20 per cent target to which many developed countries have committed. In that context, we note the 4 per cent real-term increase in bilateral ODA to the least developed

countries in 2015 and the projection that the proportion of ODA to those countries will continue to rise in 2016-2019, suggesting that developed countries are reversing the decline in ODA to the least developed countries in line with the commitment by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development at its high-level meeting in 2014 to reverse the declining trend of ODA to the least developed countries. We note with concern that FDI to those countries has remained constant as a share of global FDI and concentrated in a few countries and sectors. We also note the growing importance of remittances.

31. We welcome the recent decision by the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund to increase access to its concessional resources by 50 per cent for the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

32. We acknowledge the debt distress and sustainability challenges faced by some of the least developed countries. We recognize that the long-term sustainability of debt of those countries depends on, inter alia, economic growth, the mobilization of domestic and international resources, the export prospects of debtor countries, sustainable debt management, sound macroeconomic policies that also support job creation, sound public financial management at all levels, transparent and effective regulatory frameworks and overcoming structural development problems.

Science, technology and innovation

33. We recognize that the Istanbul Programme of Action recommends that the least developed countries and development partners make concerted efforts to build science, technology and innovation capacity so that those countries can find and harness innovative solutions to sustainable development challenges and promote endogenous capacity for research and development to address the structural impediments to achieving sustainable development that those countries face. Despite the importance of science, technology and innovation for promoting positive development outcomes, the least developed countries have not made significant progress in this field since the adoption of the Istanbul Programme of Action. We are concerned that fewer than 7 per cent of households in the least developed countries have access to the Internet, that many of the least developed countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that, for the majority of the poor, the promise of science, technology and innovation remains unfulfilled, and we emphasize the need to effectively harness technology to bridge the digital divide. In this regard, we stress the growing importance of science, technology and innovation for promoting positive development outcomes, including in the least developed countries.

Resilience building

34. We are deeply concerned that, owing to significant capacity constraints, the least developed countries are disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea level rise, coastal erosion, salinity intrusion, glacier lake outburst floods, ocean acidification, and the rise in frequency as well as impacts of natural and man-made disasters, which further threaten food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. We are deeply worried that an increase in global temperature, sea level rise, ocean acidification and other climate change impacts can seriously affect coastal areas and low-lying coastal least developed countries. We

are concerned that women and girls are often disproportionately affected by the impact of climate change and other environmental issues.

35. We note that the Istanbul Programme of Action highlights the vulnerability of the least developed countries to a variety of shocks and disasters, as well as climate change, and emphasize that these vulnerabilities threaten to undermine many of the development gains that those countries have made over the past decade. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 has recognized the higher vulnerability and risk levels of the least developed countries, which often exceed their capacity to respond to and recover from disasters. We reiterate that such vulnerability requires strengthened international cooperation and ensuring genuine, durable regional and international partnerships to improve their resilience. We also note the importance of adopting and implementing national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans aimed at preventing the creation of risk, reducing existing risk and strengthening economic, social, health and environmental resilience. We welcome the fact that many of the least developed countries have communicated intended nationally determined contributions and designed and implemented national disaster risk reduction strategies embedded in national development plans with a focus on preventive measures and a multi-stakeholder approach. However, their efforts have had limited success so far, given their capacity and resource constraints, including at the subnational level. Although most of the least developed countries have developed some form of social protection programme, coverage tends to be very limited.

36. In this regard, we acknowledge the importance of addressing these vulnerabilities and are taking steps in various multilateral forums to build resilience to many of the multiple crises and other emerging challenges described in the Istanbul Programme of Action, such as the International Development Association Crisis Response Window of the World Bank, which helps countries to respond to natural disasters and other crises, the Least Developed Countries Fund, to which donors announced contributions amounting to \$248 million during the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and initiatives of the International Monetary Fund, such as the temporary waiver of interest rates on Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust loans and the provision of grants for debt relief under the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, which also play an important role in building the resilience of the least developed countries. Measures at both the national and international levels need to be enhanced to mitigate and manage risks and address the vulnerability of the least developed countries to various kinds of shocks and crises.

37. We recognize that the least developed countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and those experiencing political instability, or unable to deliver basic State services, have specific structural challenges and require context-specific approaches, including targeted national policies and international support measures to address these challenges and to support peacebuilding, State-building activities and sustainable development. We take note of the principles set out in the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States by the Group of Seven Plus, countries that are, or have been, affected by conflict.

38. We note the convening of the Ministerial Conference on New Partnerships for Productive Capacity-Building in the Least Developed Countries, held in Cotonou, Benin, from 28 to 31 July 2014, the Ministerial Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Least

Developed Countries on Graduation and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, held in Kathmandu from 16 to 18 December 2015, and the Ministerial Meeting of the African Least Developed Countries on Structural Transformation, Graduation and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, held in Milan, Italy, from 8 to 10 June 2015.

II. Looking forward and recommendations

General recommendations

39. Planning at both the national and international levels is necessary to realize the concrete objectives contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action. We encourage the least developed countries to continue to integrate the Programme of Action into their national and sectorial development plans and their development partners to continue to integrate the Programme of Action into their national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate.

40. We reiterate the principles that guide the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action: country ownership and leadership; an integrated approach; genuine partnerships; result orientation; peace and security, development and human rights; equity; voice and representation; and the balanced role of the State and market considerations.

41. We welcome the fact that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 underscore that the most vulnerable countries, including the least developed countries, deserve special attention and reflect the concerns and aspirations of the least developed countries and we recall the decision contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on the least developed countries. We underline the importance of strong synergy in the implementation of the recently adopted agendas and the Istanbul Programme of Action at the national and subnational levels and encourage coordination and coherence in the follow-up of their implementation.

42. We also recognize that genuine, effective and durable multi-stakeholder partnerships can play an important role in advancing sustainable development. We will encourage knowledge-sharing and the promotion of cooperation and partnerships between stakeholders, including between Governments, firms, academia and civil society, in sectors contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and in support of country-driven priorities and strategies. At the same time, we commit to pursue an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors to make the global partnership for sustainable development more effective.

43. We encourage national statistical capacities in the least developed countries to be strengthened, with the support and cooperation of the international community in order to increase significantly the use and availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex, age, geography, income, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, which are necessary for efficient policymaking and an effective follow-up and review. We encourage the least developed countries to carry out a stocktaking

exercise to assess current statistics and data availability for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Istanbul Programme of Action at the national and local levels, identify data gaps and build statistical capacity to ensure that data for statistics and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals are available and reliable. Development partners and relevant international organizations should, and the partnerships are encouraged to, provide international cooperation, including through technical and financial support to the least developed countries in this endeavour.

Productive capacity-building

44. We recognize the importance of building productive capacity as a critical enabler for the development and graduation of the least developed countries and call upon those countries and their development partners to ensure enhanced focus on policies and means to address productive capacity-building. We further recognize that private capital flows, in particular FDI, play a complementary and catalytic role in building and strengthening productive capacity in the least developed countries. We call upon the least developed countries to continue to strengthen the underlying investment climate and upon development partners to continue to provide enhanced financial and technical support to those countries to develop productive capacities, including for enhancing the management capacity of the least developed countries. We note that international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank provide capacity development to the least developed countries through direct technical assistance and training for country authorities and we invite them to further strengthen such support, responding to the demands and needs of those countries, within the framework of existing commitments, in accordance with their national development policies and strategies.

Graduation

45. We recall General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries. We underscore that the efforts of the least developed countries towards graduation are underpinned by their ownership and leadership, as the primary responsibility for development lies with the countries themselves, but they need to be supported by concrete and substantial international partnership measures in a spirit of mutual accountability for development results.

46. We urge both the least developed countries and their development partners to undertake more concerted and ambitious efforts to achieve the aim of the Istanbul Programme of Action of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020. It is also important that graduation be seen not as a cut-off point, but as a resolute move towards better and sustained economic development and virtuous and inclusive structural transformation. We emphasize that a successful transition needs to be based on a national smooth transition strategy, elaborated by each graduated country. We encourage development and trading partners and the United Nations system to continue their support for the implementation of transition strategies for the least developed countries, as well as for smooth transition for graduated countries and to avoid any abrupt reductions in either ODA or technical assistance provided to the graduated countries.

47. We invite development and trading partners to consider extending to the graduated country trade preferences previously made available as a result of least developed country status, or reducing them in a phased manner in order to avoid their abrupt reduction, on a bilateral basis.

48. We recognize the importance of the reviews by the Committee for Development Policy of the graduation criteria for the least developed countries. We recommend the reviews be comprehensive, taking into account all aspects of the evolving international development context, including relevant agendas.

Infrastructure and energy

49. We recall the goal in the Istanbul Programme of Action to increase total primary energy supply per capita in the least developed countries to the same level as in other developing countries; significantly increase the share of electricity generation through renewable energy sources by 2020; and enhance capacities in energy production, trade and distribution with the aim of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030. We recognize that financing for infrastructure and universal access to modern energy, including at the subnational level, remains a major challenge for the least developed countries.

50. We also stress that special attention should be given to the least developed countries throughout the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014-2024), as well as within the framework of the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative and the recently held Sustainable Energy for All Forum and the Global Infrastructure Forum, with a view to ensuring the realization of the objective of access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030 and to addressing the infrastructure needs of the least developed countries.

51. We call upon the development partners to continue to support efforts by the least developed countries to develop the energy sector in generation, distribution and energy efficiency, including in renewable energy, other clean energy sources and natural gas, inter alia, through enhanced financial and technical assistance and by facilitating private sector investment, in accordance with national priorities and needs. We underline that increasing substantially the share of renewable energy in the energy mix and increasing energy efficiency can support energy access in the least developed countries. Supporting off-grid solutions for access to electricity is an effective and efficient way to improve the energy access situation of the poor. We will work to provide adequate support and facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services to the least developed countries.

52. We will embed resilient and quality infrastructure investment plans in our national sustainable development strategies, while also strengthening domestic enabling environments. We reaffirm our commitment to provide enhanced financial and technical support for infrastructure development in line with the least developed countries' sectorial and development needs and priorities and use concessional funds, where appropriate, to catalyse and leverage other sources of funding for infrastructure development and management. We will provide technical and financial support for the least developed countries to translate plans into concrete project pipelines, as well as for individual implementable projects, including for feasibility studies, the negotiation of complex contracts and project management.

53. We recommend that all forms of finance, tools and mechanisms, including domestic resources, private finance, ODA grants and other forms of international development cooperation, public-private partnerships, concessional and non-concessional loans, blended finance, special-purpose vehicles, non-recourse project financing, risk mitigation instruments, pooled funding structures and other innovative approaches, be utilized. We invite the development finance institutions and the development partners to play a larger and more coordinated role in investing in infrastructure projects in the least developed countries, mitigating and sharing risks and ensuring guarantees.

Agriculture, food security and nutrition and rural development

54. We support the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge and recommend increasing sustainable and responsible investment, both domestic and international, in sustainable agriculture and food security, the sustainable use of water resources, including through international public and private cooperation in rural and urban infrastructure, nutrition, secure land tenure, agricultural research and extension services, access to markets and to finance, especially for smallholder farmers, building irrigation facilities, technology development and transfer on mutually agreed terms, the promotion of resilient and sustainable agricultural practices and reducing food loss and waste. We reaffirm the commitment to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and to increase the economic benefits to the least developed countries that are small island developing States and coastal countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through the sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism by 2030.

55. We furthermore commit to supporting strong economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national, regional and local development planning, including through an integrated approach to sustainable water management and strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage. We will also endeavour to increase investments for effective actions to improve people's diets and nutrition, including in emergency situations, with particular emphasis on supporting access to safe drinking water and sanitation services.

56. We recall our commitment to empower women in agriculture, including through women's access to and control over land and other productive assets.

57. We reaffirm the need to undertake necessary measures at the national and international levels to increase the agricultural productivity of the least developed countries. We take note of the existing regional frameworks on emergency food reserve mechanisms and recognize the importance of food security in emergency situations and the need for building resilience. In this regard, we invite the international community to consider enhancing such cooperation at the regional level, particularly for the least developed countries. We will continue to explore ways to improve the effectiveness of food reserve mechanisms for dealing with humanitarian food emergencies or as a means to limit price volatility in those countries. We recognize that commodity diversification and value addition as well as the effective participation of the least developed countries in regional and global value chains and in international trade in agricultural products is a critical aspect of the efforts of those countries in reversing their marginalization, building productive

capacities, accelerating structural transformation and generating full and productive employment and decent work for all with quick and sustainable impact on poverty eradication.

58. We reiterate our commitment to protect, restore and sustainably use terrestrial and water-related ecosystems, including forests, halting biodiversity loss, and tackling land and soil degradation and desertification. This would generate multiple benefits, including food security, improving the living conditions of affected populations, eradicating poverty and contributing to peace and security while enabling the least developed countries to effectively mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change. We will also promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, including efforts to reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.

Trade and investment

59. We reaffirm the pre-eminence of the World Trade Organization as the global forum for the setting and governance of trade rules. We acknowledge the contribution that the rules-based multilateral trading system has made to the strength and stability of the global economy. We reaffirm the value of the World Trade Organization's consistent practice of taking decisions through a transparent, inclusive, consensus-based, member-driven process.

60. We take note of the pledge by the members of the World Trade Organization to strengthen the multilateral trading system so that it provides a strong impetus to inclusive prosperity and welfare for all members and responds to the specific development needs of developing country members, in particular the least developed country members.

61. We reaffirm our commitment to significantly increase the share of least developed countries' trade in global trade with the aim of doubling the share of least developed countries' exports in global exports by 2020, including by broadening least developed countries' export base.

62. In that regard, we urge the least developed countries and their development partners to make use of existing initiatives and programmes, such as the relevant ministerial decisions of the World Trade Organization on duty-free and quota-free market access for the least developed countries and on preferential rules of origin for those countries, as well as aid for trade. We will increase aid for trade support, in particular for the least developed countries; and we will strive to allocate an increasing proportion of aid for trade to the least developed countries, provided according to development cooperation effectiveness principles. We also welcome additional cooperation among developing countries to this end. We encourage the least developed countries to mainstream trade in their national development plans. With this in mind, we welcome the extension of the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries into phase two and, as the Enhanced Integrated Framework implements the reforms, agreed as necessary for its continuation, we urge members to contribute to the timely replenishment of the Enhanced Integrated Framework Trust Fund, for the effective implementation, without any disruption, of the Framework between 2016 and 2023.

63. We urge World Trade Organization members to continue their efforts to accelerate the accession of all the least developed countries engaged in negotiations for World Trade Organization membership and welcome the 2012 guidelines for the accession of the least developed countries to the Organization.

64. We call upon all partners who are World Trade Organization members to implement all of the ministerial decisions, especially those that are of benefit to the least developed countries. We also call upon development partners to continue to provide concrete support to the least developed countries for the diversification of their export base, including into dynamic sectors of world trade, and in meeting the requirements of the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade to assist them in increasing their share in world trade and enhancing domestic value added for exports.

65. We reaffirm our joint commitment to promote strategic and regulatory frameworks for FDI and other resource flows to the least developed countries that include vital policy areas such as infrastructure development, trade and trade facilitation, research and development and the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms.

66. To further investment promotion, we also recommend establishing national regulatory and policy frameworks that allow businesses to innovate, invest and transform technology into employment and inclusive economic growth. We also call for greater commitment from the least developed countries and scaled-up international support for regional integration in order to expand markets, to promote trade facilitation by implementing the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization, cross-border infrastructure development, regional value chains and regional cooperation, all of which will contribute to regional stability and progress. Effective partnerships between and among Governments, the private sector and civil society are particularly useful in addressing complex and interrelated challenges.

67. We recall the decision contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action and reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 67/220 of 21 December 2012 to adopt, expand and implement investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries. We welcome the decision contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries and the offer to provide financial and technical support for project preparation and contract negotiation, advisory support in investment-related dispute resolution, access to information on investment facilities and risk insurance and guarantees such as through the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.

68. We recognize that stronger and more focused policies, activities and strategies by the least developed countries, the home countries of FDI, international organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate, can help substantially increase FDI flows to the least developed countries. We encourage the least developed countries to continue to strengthen the underlying investment climate and to establish and maintain national investment promotion facilities, and we encourage development partners to continue to support capacity-building in the least developed countries aimed at improving their abilities to attract FDI.

69. In that regard, we invite the Secretary-General, in his capacity as the Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to include the

issue of investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries in the agenda of the Board, with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of United Nations system support that can contribute to enhancing the flow of FDI to the least developed countries and the ability of those countries to attract such investment. We further invite the Economic and Social Council, at its next annual forum on financing for development follow-up, to discuss adopting and implementing investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries, pursuant to the relevant resolutions on the matter, including General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the mandate of the annual forum on financing for development follow-up set out therein. We recall that the forum's intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations will be fed into the overall follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

70. We call upon the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to help the least developed countries attract and benefit from FDI, including through its Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, its investment policy reviews, investment guides and other investment promotion activities. We encourage the least developed countries to make more use of those programmes and call upon development partners to continue funding them on a voluntary basis. We also invite other relevant United Nations entities and international organizations to continue their support to the least developed countries in the area of investment promotion, as appropriate and in line with their respective mandates.

71. The least developed countries are also encouraged to utilize existing trade and investment support mechanisms. The World Bank, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development offer several such programmes that address risk insurance and guarantees as well as technical and advisory support for investment-related negotiations and dispute resolution.

Good governance at all levels

72. We recall the objective of Istanbul Programme of Action of enhancing good governance at all levels, by strengthening democratic processes, institutions and the rule of law; increasing efficiency, coherence, transparency and participation; protecting and promoting human rights; and reducing corruption, and strengthening least developed country Governments' capacity to play an effective role in their economic and social development. Furthering participation, empowering civil society, youth and women, and strengthening collective action will contribute to the eradication of poverty and achieving sustainable development. In that context, we encourage broad participation by the least developed countries in partnerships and other international conventions and initiatives, as appropriate, such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. We also take note of the work of the Open Government Partnership. We further call upon the least developed countries that have not yet done so to make domestic legislation consistent with their particular obligations as members of or States parties to all relevant international agreements.

73. We recognize that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security, and that peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. In this regard, we acknowledge that the development challenges posed by conflict not only impede, but can reverse decades of development gains. We thus call upon the least developed countries, with the support of development partners, as appropriate, to build the resilience necessary to address the root causes of conflict in their countries and regions. We call upon the international community to support least developed countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and in particular those suffering from internal and cross-border violence, especially the threat of violent extremism and international terrorism, with the view of achieving the realization of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. We will also take measures to ensure that women have a role in peacebuilding and State-building.

Human and social development, children and youth

74. We acknowledge that high-quality education and skills development provide the foundation for lifelong learning and broader human development. We therefore support the global commitment to provide high-quality education to all in the least developed countries, including the poorest and most vulnerable, to the end of secondary school, and reaffirm the commitment to enhance technical, vocational and tertiary education and training, ensuring gender equality in access. We also reaffirm that investment in human resources and institutional capacities are required to ensure a diversified and resilient economy, based on a wide range of sectors, to reduce the economic volatility of countries and enable countries to reap the demographic dividend. Technical, vocational and skills development programmes need to take into account the needs of local firms and generate skilled human resources, which can also help firms to invest in the necessary technologies for advancing in the value chain. We will continue our efforts to make further progress in ensuring gender balance in enrolment in and completion of secondary and tertiary education. In this regard, we reiterate our call to development partners to continue to provide and encourage, as appropriate, higher education institutes to allocate scholarships and placements for students and trainees from the least developed countries, in particular in the fields of science, technology, business management and economics.

75. We recognize that today's generation of people under the age of 25 is the largest ever in history. Girls and boys, young women and young men, are key agents of change in creating a better future, and when empowered, they have great potential to advocate on behalf of themselves and their communities. We will promote and protect the rights of children and youth, ensure more opportunities for their meaningful participation, and work towards ending all forms of violence and abuse against children and youth, including exploitation, trafficking, torture and other harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage. We call upon all countries to promote the engagement of children and youth as active members of the global community, now and later in life, and to ensure that no one is left behind. We call upon the least developed countries to develop policies and programmes for supporting youth access to secondary and higher education, vocational training and productive employment and health-care services, especially for young women and girls. We call upon development partners to provide financial and technical assistance to support formal and non-formal

education systems, policies and programmes in the least developed countries that provide economic opportunities and productive employment to youth, and to promote youth exchange programmes, including through virtual campuses and other networking mechanisms.

76. To enable all people to benefit from growth, we will include full and productive employment and decent work for all as a central objective in our national development strategies.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

77. We reaffirm the essential role of gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their human rights, and of full and productive employment and decent work in achieving sustainable development. Women and girls must enjoy equal access to high-quality education, health, including sexual and reproductive health, access to finance and economic opportunities and resources and political participation, as well as equal opportunities with men and boys for employment and decent work, leadership and decision-making at all levels. We will work for a significant increase in the investments to close the gender gap and strengthen support for institutions, including criminal and civil justice systems, in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at all levels. We will continue supporting the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, including through the engagement of men and boys.

Financing for development

78. We recognize the efforts of the least developed countries to enhance domestic resource generation, and we commit to supporting efforts by the least developed countries to enhance their revenue mobilization, economic growth, product diversification and domestic value addition; to broadening the tax base and continuing efforts to integrate the informal sector into the formal economy in line with country circumstances; and to enhancing revenue administration through modernized, progressive tax systems, improved tax policy and more efficient tax collection and administration. We are committed to reducing corruption and increasing transparency at all levels. We reaffirm our commitment to work to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030 in order to help the least developed countries to mobilize resources.

79. We reiterate that an important use of international public finance, including ODA, is to catalyse additional resource mobilization from other sources, public and private. In this regard, we take note of such efforts as the Addis Tax Initiative. We also take note of the "platform for collaboration on tax" prepared by the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations and the World Bank Group.

80. We welcome the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, including its subcommittees.

81. We recognize that private business activity, investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation, and that private international capital flows, particularly FDI, along with a stable international financial system, are vital complements to national development efforts.

82. We reiterate that the fulfilment of all ODA commitments remains crucial. ODA providers reaffirm their respective ODA commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI for ODA and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries. We are encouraged by those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitment to 0.7 per cent of GNI for ODA and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries. We urge all others to step up efforts to increase their ODA and to make additional concrete efforts towards the ODA targets. We welcome the decision by the European Union which reaffirms its collective commitment to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI for ODA within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and undertakes to meet collectively the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries in the short term and to reach 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda. We encourage ODA providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries.

83. We are encouraged by those who are allocating at least 50 per cent of their ODA to the least developed countries.

84. We stress the need for the international community to remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of the least developed countries and to continue to take effective measures, preferably within existing frameworks, when applicable, to address the debt problem of those countries, including through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief, debt restructuring and sound debt management, as appropriate, for the multilateral and bilateral debt owed by the least developed countries to creditors, both public and private. We reiterate our commitment to work through existing initiatives, such as the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. We reaffirm the importance of transparency in debt management.

85. We recognize the significant potential of multilateral development banks and other international development banks in financing sustainable development and providing know-how.

86. We encourage the least developed countries, with support from the international community, to develop their capacities to track financial transactions, administer taxation, facilitate customs services and investigate and prosecute offences to contribute to the success of efforts to deal with illicit financial flows. We also encourage international cooperation on tax matters.

87. We encourage the use of and improved access to innovative tools, such as mobile banking, payment platforms and digitalized payments, as appropriate, including by women and micro-businesses, and we recognize the role that this can play in promoting financial inclusion, as well as in reducing costs, increasing transparency, improving the speed and security of payments and opening up new markets.

88. We call for support for those partnerships and global alliances, such as the Better Than Cash Alliance and its institutional secretariat, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, that expand the reach and adoption of such tools in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Istanbul Programme of Action.

89. We welcome continued efforts to improve the quality, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation and other international efforts in public finance, including adherence to agreed development cooperation effectiveness principles. We will align activities with national priorities, including by reducing fragmentation, accelerating the untying of aid, particularly for the least developed countries and countries most in need. We will promote country ownership and results orientation and strengthen country systems, use programme-based approaches where appropriate, strengthen partnerships for development, reduce transaction costs and increase transparency and mutual accountability. We will make development more effective and predictable by providing the least developed countries with regular and timely indicative information on planned support in the medium term.

90. We commit to pursuing policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors in support of these actions.

South-South and triangular cooperation

91. We recall that South-South cooperation plays an important role in the development of the least developed countries through its contribution to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

92. South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement, not a substitute, to North-South cooperation. We recognize its increased importance, different history and particularities and stress that South-South cooperation should be seen as an expression of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, based on their shared experiences and objectives. It should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.

93. We welcome the increased contributions of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development. We encourage developing countries to voluntarily step up their efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation and to further improve its development effectiveness in accordance with the provisions of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. We also commit to strengthening triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation.

Migration and remittances

94. We recognize the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development. We also recognize that international migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, which requires coherent and comprehensive responses. We will cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons. Such cooperation should also strengthen the resilience of communities hosting refugees, particularly in developing countries. We underline the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship, and recall that States must ensure that their returning nationals are duly received.

95. We will work towards reducing the average transaction cost of migrant remittances by 2030 to less than 3 per cent of the amount transferred. We are particularly concerned with the cost of remittances in certain low-volume and high-cost corridors. We will work to ensure that no remittance corridor requires charges higher than 5 per cent by 2030, mindful of the need to maintain adequate service coverage, especially for those most in need.

96. We recognize that remittances from migrant workers are typically wages transferred to families, primarily to meet part of the needs of the recipient households, and cannot be equated to other international financial flows. We will work to ensure that adequate and affordable financial services are available to migrants and their families in both home and host countries. Combining remittance receipts with broader access to other financial services can increase the impact of remittances on growth by facilitating savings and investments. We will take measures to promote the productive investment of remittances, such as in micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and ensure that women and men are engaged as equal partners and beneficiaries.

97. We will support national authorities to address the most significant obstacles to the continued flow of remittances, such as the trend of banks withdrawing services, to work towards access to remittance transfer services across borders. We will increase coordination among national regulatory authorities to remove obstacles to non-bank remittance service providers accessing payment system infrastructure and promote conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfer of remittances in both source and recipient countries, including by promoting competitive and transparent market conditions.

Science, technology and innovation

98. We reaffirm our commitment to support efforts by the least developed countries to improve their capacity to develop, access and utilize critical technologies. We acknowledge that an enabling environment and relevant legal frameworks can give firms confidence to invest in advanced technologies and establish research partnerships in the least developed countries and to provide incentives for local firms to develop or adapt their own technologies. We encourage the least developed countries, with support from the international community, to enhance investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and enhance technical, vocational and tertiary education and training and to ensure equal access for women and girls and encourage their participation therein. We also encourage development partners to enhance support for efforts by the least developed countries to create a successful environment for developing, attracting and utilizing new technologies and building domestic capacity and a knowledge base, including through financial and technical assistance and the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms.

99. We reaffirm our commitment to fully operationalize the technology bank for the least developed countries, in view of its potential to foster productive capacity, structural transformation, poverty eradication and sustainable development. In this regard, we take note of General Assembly resolution 70/216 of 22 December 2015, in which the Assembly outlined the steps necessary to launch and operationalize the technology bank, funded by voluntary contributions, by 2017, and to ensure continued support for the technology bank from all relevant stakeholders. We will

avoid duplication and promote synergies between the bank and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism established in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and close cooperation on both technical and administrative matters with the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals. We welcome the appointment by the Secretary-General of the members of the governing council of the technology bank and the establishment of a trust fund with the flexibility necessary to attract voluntary funding from Member States and other stakeholders. We emphasize that additional details about, inter alia, the specific activities the technology bank will undertake and how those activities will be evaluated will help to mobilize voluntary assistance. We invite the governing council, with the assistance of appropriate technical experts, as needed, and in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to draft a legal charter to be adopted by the General Assembly before the end of 2016 and to elaborate other detailed operational and policy documents necessary for the operationalization and sustainable functioning of the technology bank.

100. We stress that generous and sustained support will be crucial to ensure the success of the technology bank. We welcome the fact that Turkey will host the technology bank for the least developed countries in Gebze, and we call upon the Government of Turkey to continue its support for the bank. We urge developed and developing country partners, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide voluntary financial and technical assistance to the technology bank to ensure its effective operation.

101. We recognize the importance of ensuring access for poor and excluded households and localities to adapted technologies that can facilitate entry to new markets and provide renewable energy sources, waste management and clean water.

Resilience-building

102. We emphasize that building resilience at the national level, as well as the subnational, community and individual levels, is critical to sustaining hard-won development gains and accelerating progress towards achieving the development aspirations set in the Istanbul Programme of Action. More investment in the capacities and institutions of local authorities, the building of livelihoods, inclusive and rapid growth, disaster preparedness, the application of information and communications technologies and science and technology, social protection and good governance will contribute to strengthening resilience in an effective manner.

103. We welcome the Paris Agreement, in which parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change established the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change and recognized that adaptation is a global challenge faced by all, taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of those developing country parties to the Framework Convention that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

104. We welcome the fact that the Paris Agreement can play an important role in the transformation to low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient societies and help to build resilience and reduce vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change, taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of those developing country parties to the Framework Convention that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

105. We call for effective delivery on climate change commitments and access for the least developed countries to all relevant climate change-related funds, as applicable.

106. We welcome the decisions of the Board of the Green Climate Fund to aim for a 50:50 balance between mitigation and adaptation over time on a grant equivalent basis and a floor of 50 per cent of the adaptation allocation for particularly vulnerable countries, including the least developed countries. We welcome the recent pledges to the Least Developed Countries Fund at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and call upon the developed countries to continue to provide support to vulnerable countries, including the least developed countries, to address their adaptation needs. We encourage other parties to the Framework Convention to provide or continue to provide such support voluntarily.

107. We stress the importance of developing and implementing holistic disaster risk reduction strategies integrated at all levels in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and of supporting national and local capacity for disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery and rehabilitation. In this regard, we call for the continuation of the work in relevant institutions to support efforts by the least developed countries to build their national capacity to respond to various kinds of shocks, including through funds and other tools.

108. We urge both development partners and the least developed countries to make full use of various context-specific programmes and instruments that are already in place. In some instances, resilience programmes may require country-level pooled funding mechanisms that provide assistance and reduce transaction costs for a particular least developed country.

109. We underline the need to reduce the vulnerability of the least developed countries to economic, natural and environmental shocks and disasters, as well as climate change, and to enhance their ability to meet these and other challenges by strengthening their resilience, and in this regard stress that it is important that all countries and other actors work together to further develop and implement concrete measures on an urgent basis at the national and international levels so as to build the resilience of the least developed countries to withstand economic shocks and mitigate their adverse effects, to withstand and overcome the adverse effects of climate change, to enhance sustainable growth and protect biodiversity and to withstand natural hazards in order to reduce the risk of disasters, as agreed upon in the Istanbul Programme of Action.

110. We renew our resolve to fulfil our commitments to further implement the Istanbul Programme of Action, and we underscore the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing the least developed countries in a concerted manner. We recognize that the way forward for crisis mitigation and resilience-building requires that coordinated, balanced and integrated actions be taken at all levels, including through the strengthening of existing initiatives, with the aim of building the resilience of the least developed countries in overcoming their vulnerabilities.

111. We decide to undertake an in-depth analysis on crisis mitigation and resilience-building for the least developed countries, at the national and international levels, with a view to building and further strengthening crisis mitigation and resilience in

the least developed countries, and we request the General Assembly to determine the parameters of this analysis at its seventy-first session.

112. We stress the importance of working on conflict prevention and peacebuilding to promote social cohesion and of empowering the least developed countries to become inclusive and resilient to external and internal shocks that could result in new cycles of violence. Conflict prevention measures with adequate early warning and risk assessment tools can assist in avoiding or at least mitigating adverse impacts of shocks. We express our commitment to take early action to prevent extreme violence and armed conflict by supporting and strengthening core governance institutions, strengthening national capacities for conflict prevention and management of ongoing tensions with civil society and marginalized communities, including women and youth, facilitating dialogue and consensus-building, and mainstreaming conflict prevention and early warning in development within the United Nations system through conflict analysis and assessment.

113. We note that women and girls, especially those belonging to the poorest segments of society, are among those who are affected disproportionately during and in the aftermath of crises and disasters. We reaffirm our commitment to put in place gender-responsive policies and actions to address crises and disasters, including by ensuring women's full, equal and effective participation and leadership in decision-making, building their capacity for preparedness and resilient livelihoods.

United Nations system support

114. We reiterate that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should continue to fulfil its functions to assist the Secretary-General in the effective follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system, with a view to facilitating the coordinated implementation of and coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Programme of Action at the country, regional and global levels, and should continue to assist in mobilizing international support and resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action. To this end, it should continue its awareness-raising and advocacy work in favour of the least developed countries, in partnership with the relevant parts of the United Nations system, as well as with parliaments, civil society, the media, academia and foundations, and should continue to provide appropriate support to group consultations of least developed countries.

115. We reiterate our request to the Secretary-General to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation and coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. The coordination mechanisms available, such as the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the United Nations Development Group, should be broadly utilized and the inter-agency consultative group should be kept active in this regard.

116. We reiterate the importance of effective linkages in the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries.

117. We reiterate our invitation to the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes and other multilateral organizations and international financial institutions to contribute to implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action and to integrate it into their work programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates. These organizations are invited to participate fully in reviews of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. We are concerned that the share of expenditure for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system in the least developed countries is declining. We invite the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations development system and other multilateral organizations to prioritize allocations to the least developed countries, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates.

118. We reiterate that treating the least developed countries as a group on the basis of their low per capita income, human asset development and economic vulnerability remains the fundamental premise for special measures in their favour, and that wider recognition of least developed country status could stimulate and facilitate better integration of the Istanbul Programme of Action into development policies. We invite the Committee for Development Policy to look into the reasons and consequences of the non-application of the least developed country category by some United Nations development system organizations and to include its findings on this matter in its annual report to the Economic and Social Council.

119. We recommit to the broadening and strengthening of the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting and in global economic governance. We invite the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and the other main international regulatory standard-setting bodies to continue efforts to increase the voice of developing countries in norm-setting processes to ensure that their concerns are taken into consideration. We reiterate that more effective representation of the least developed countries in decision-making at the global level could improve the international environment for the development of the least developed countries. We also reiterate that the international economic system and architecture should be inclusive and responsive to the special development needs of the least developed countries, ensuring their effective participation, voice and representation at all levels.

Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

120. We encourage the General Assembly to consider holding the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2021.